リアル
REAL
11
井上雄彦
井上雄彦
集英社
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Produced by HIKARU PUB
Comic by INOUE Takehiko

YJ
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井上雄彦

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**64th.** page 111

**65th.** page 147

**66th.** page 183

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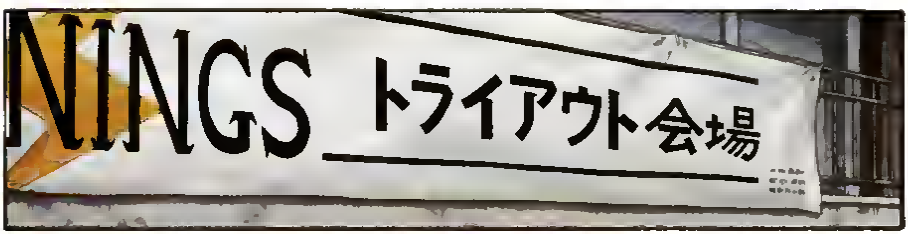
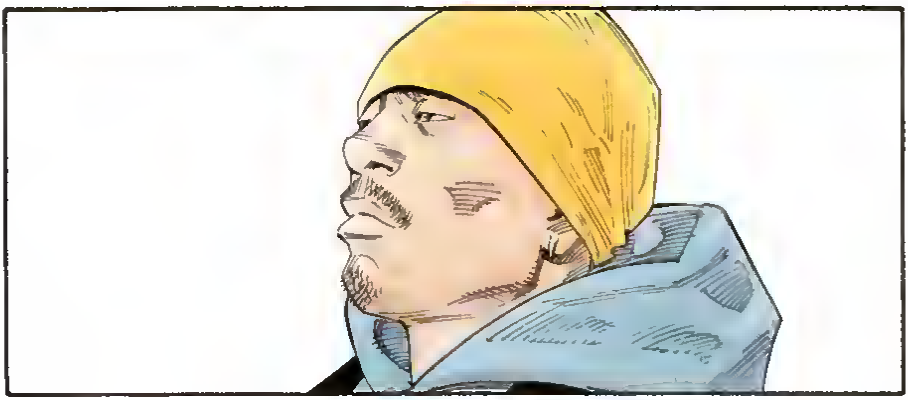
61st.

LIGHTNINGS トライアウト会場

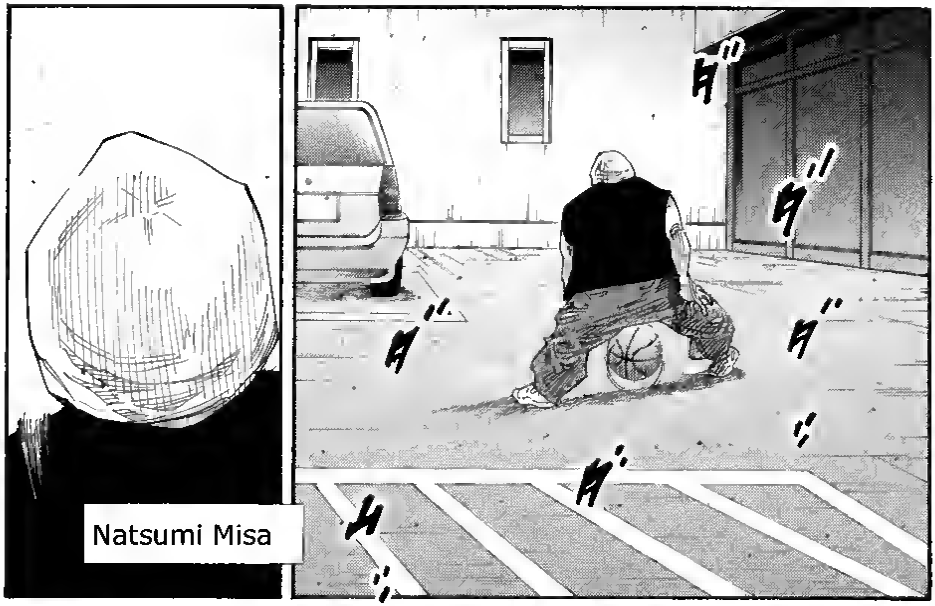

NINGS
トライアウト会場



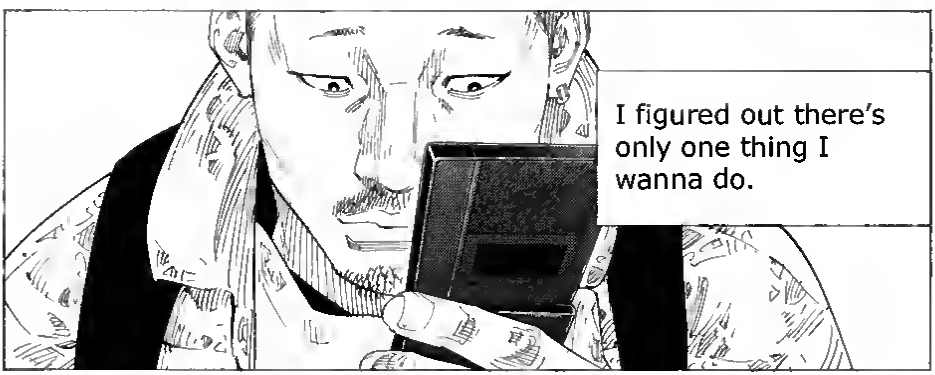
ZOOOP
TOKYO
LIGHTNINGS
I'M GOING TO CHANGE MY LIFE.

NISHI
HIIIIIIIGH
FIIIIII
IIGHT!

YEAAAAAAH!!
GHTNINGS トライアウト会場
ゴ
ッ
HEY!
OH!
ハ"
ハ
HEY!


Natsumi Misa

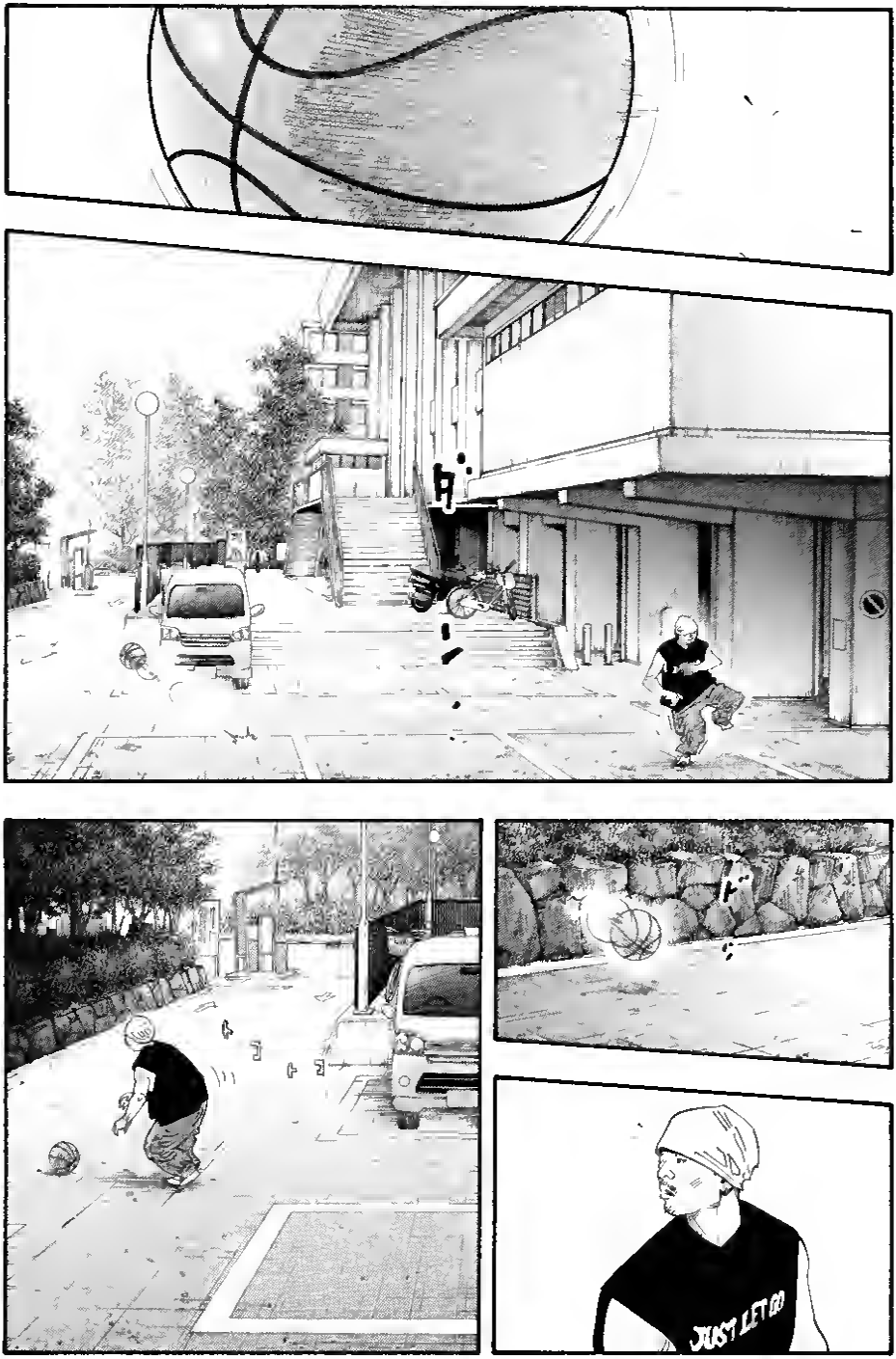
How's the manga going?
We're in the same shoes, now, you know.


I figured out there's only one thing I wanna do.

Become a pro basketball player.

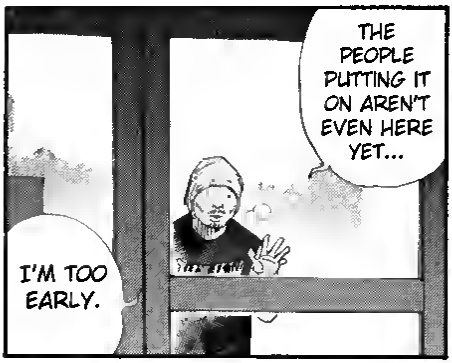
If you wanna laugh, then go ahead and laugh!!
JUST LET GO

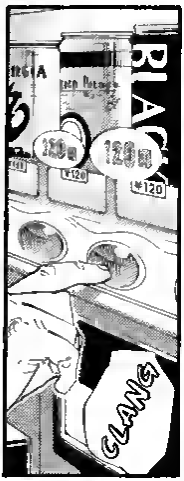
HOHHH!

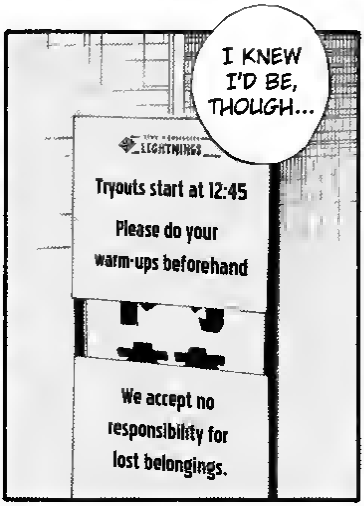

JUST LET GO

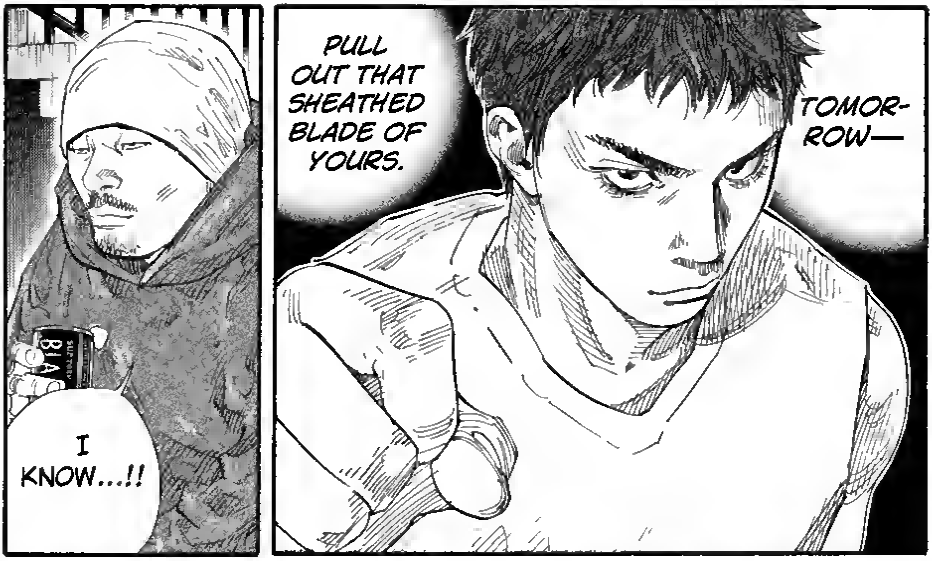
I'M FINALLY HERE...

.....

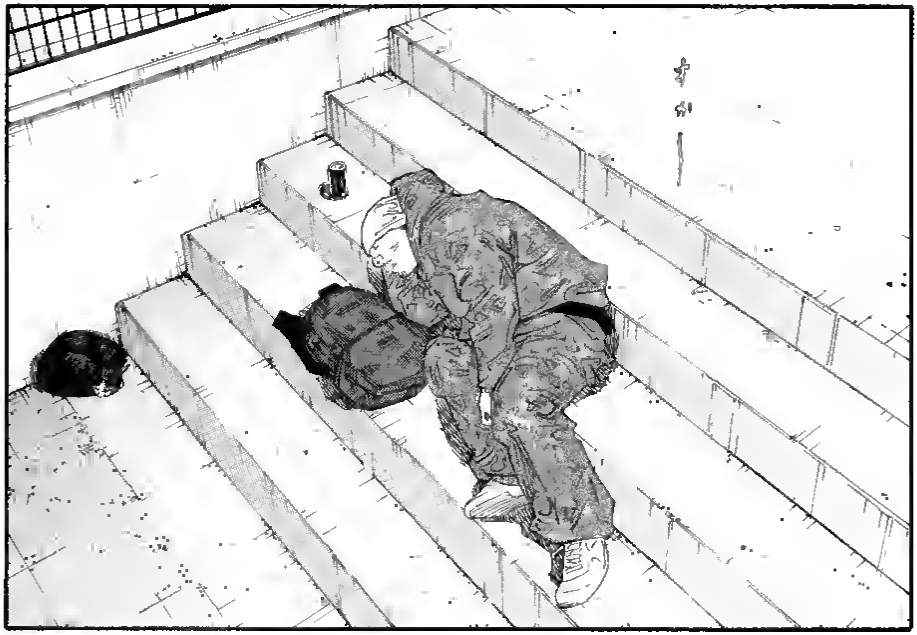

THE PEOPLE PUTTING IT ON AREN'T EVEN HERE YET...
I'M TOO EARLY.

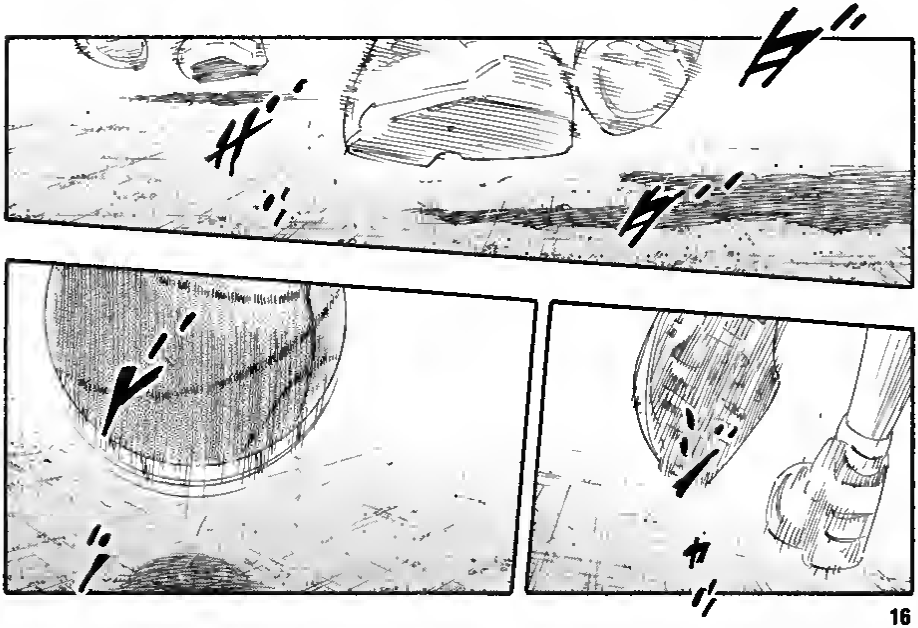

BLACK
GLANG


I KNEW I'D BE, THOUGH...
Tryouts start at 12:45
Please do your warm-ups beforehand
We accept no responsibility for lost belongings.


I KNOW...!!
PULL OUT THAT SHEATHED BLADE OF YOURS.
TOMOR-ROW—

GRUMP



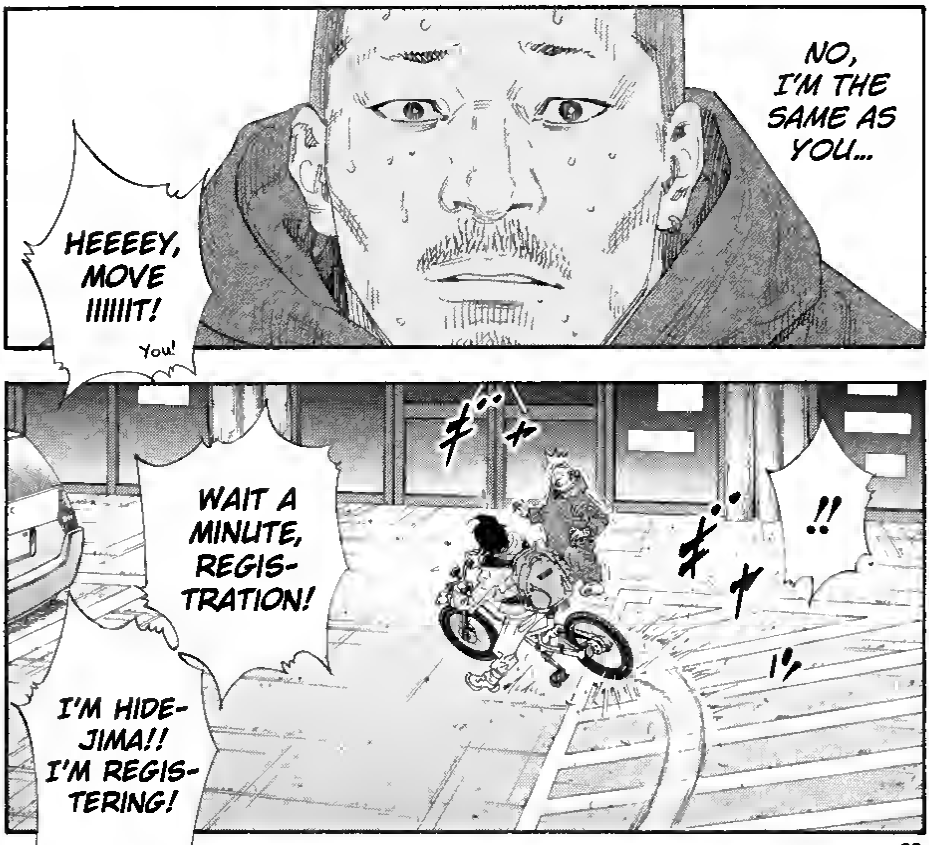


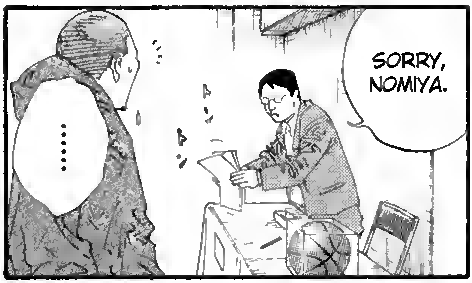
HUH?

REGIS-TRATION TIME!!
12:29
I'VE ONLY GOT ONE MINUTE LEFT!!
WHOAAA!!
WHAT TIME IS IT!?
SHIT!!
WAIT A MINUUUUUUUUTE!
HAA, HAA, HAA!
THE REGIS-TRATION DESK WILL BE CLOSING MO-MENTARILY.
IS THERE ANYONE ELSE WHO HAS YET TO REGISTER?
?
?
WHERE'S MY WALLET?
I MADE IT...
KUH KUH!
IT'S 5,000 YEN FOR REGIS-TRATION, RIGHT?
HAA, HAA!
I'M NOMIYA!
NOMIYA... IS THAT RIGHT?

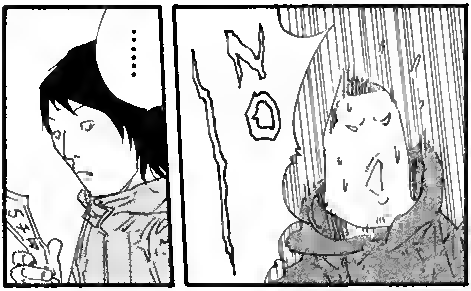
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE FEE... I'LL PAY IT AFTERWARDS, I PROMISE!
YOUR TIME'S UP, I'M SORRY.
But I just used it to buy some coffee...
Was it stolen?

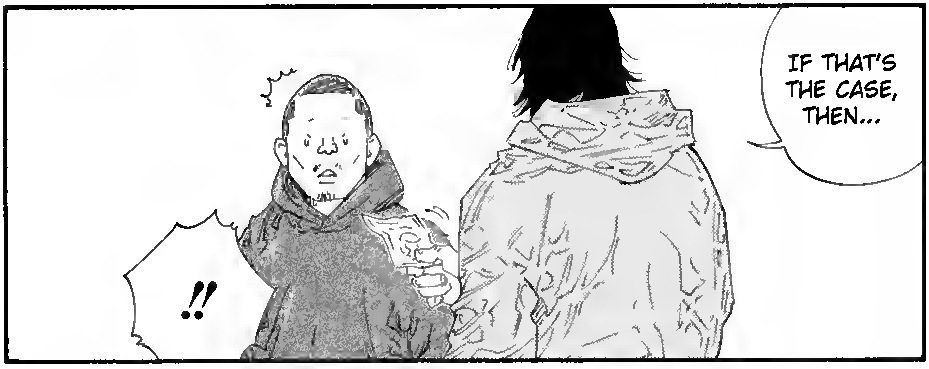
WE'RE RISKING OUR LIVES ON THESE TRY-OUTS.
IF YOU CAME HERE THINKING THIS WAS SOME KIND OF GAME, YOU'VE GOT A BIG SURPRISE WAITING FOR YOU.


NO, I'M THE SAME AS YOU...
HEEEEY, MOVE IIIIIT!
You!
WAIT A MINUTE, REGIS-TRATION!
I'M HIDE-JIMA!! I'M REGIS-TERING!
!!


SORRY, NOMIYA.
.....

PHEWWW, I MADE IT!
TECH-NICALLY, YOU'RE LATE, YOU KNOW.
HERE'S YOUR CHANGE.
IT'S THANKS TO THAT GUY OVER THERE THAT I HAVEN'T CLOSED UP THIS TABLE YET


.....
NO


IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN...
!!

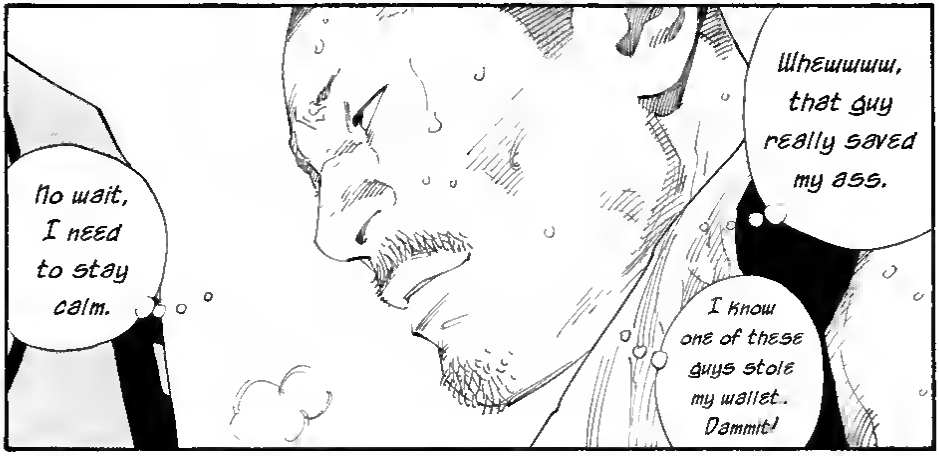
THE OPENING CEREMONY'S ABOUT TO BEGIN, HURRY!
Thank youuuuuu!

AHHH...

I MEAN, I OWE YOU, IN A WAY.
AND I DON'T LIKE HAVING TO OWE PEOPLE.

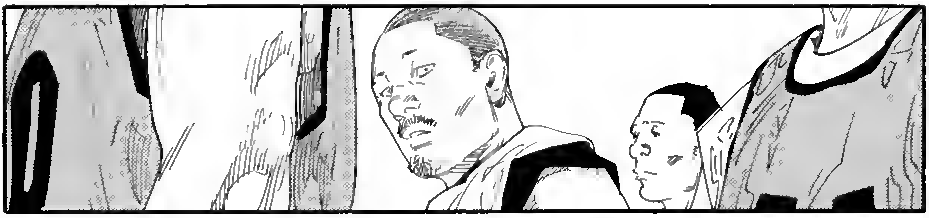
TOKYO 東京ライトニングス
LIGHTNINGS
プロバスケットボールリーグ

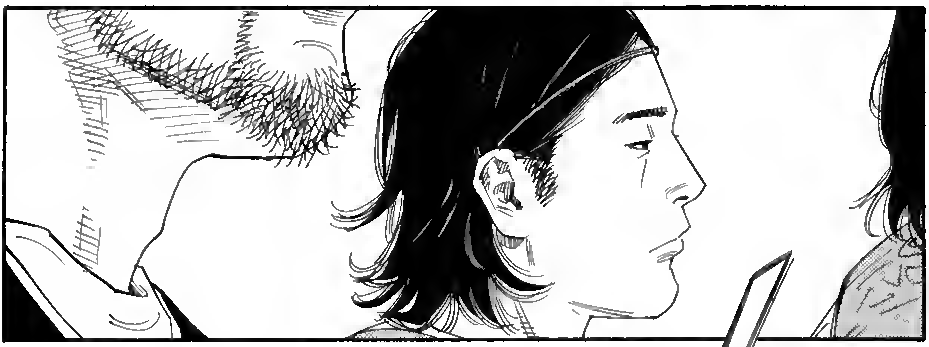
LIGHTNING!

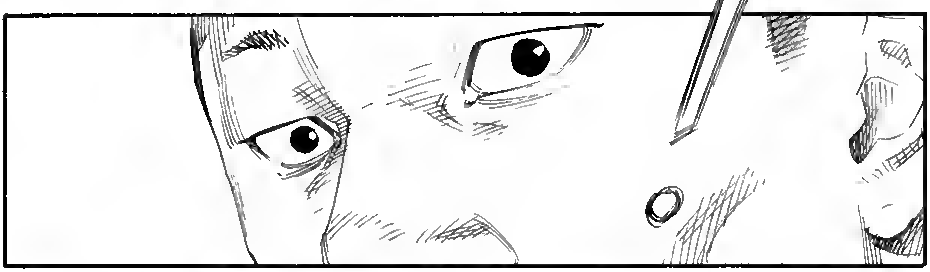

Whewwww, that guy really saved my ass.
I know one of these guys stole my wallet. Dammit!
No wait, I need to stay calm.

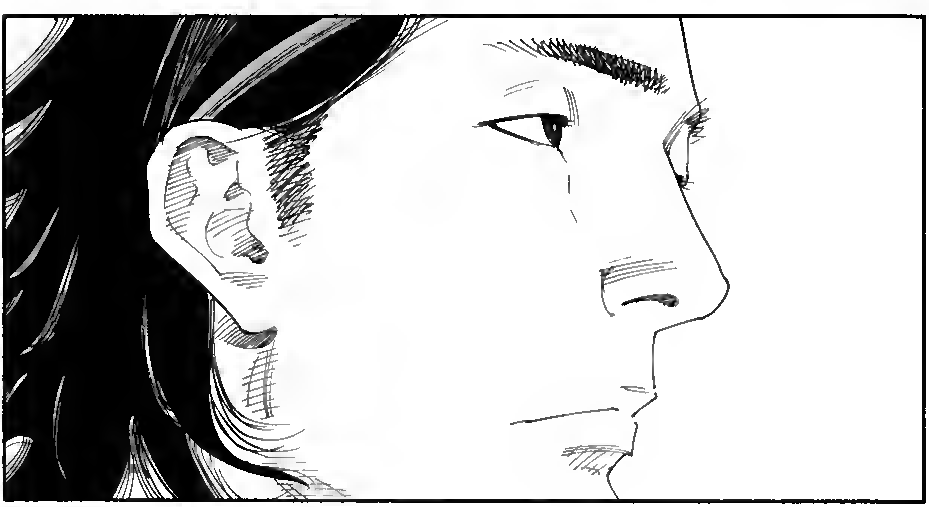
It's Jun-chan.
OHHH!
TANAKA JUNICHI.
NOW THEN, A WORD FROM OUR HEAD COACH,

THANK YOU FOR COMING.
I ASSUME THAT YOU'VE ALL GATHERED HERE BECAUSE YOU FEEL YOU'RE READY TO PLAY AT THE PRO LEVEL.
NOW, TODAY, I WANT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU TO SHOW ME
?
Who?
YOUR SKILL,
AND
YOUR SPIRIT!!
I expected that, though.
And none of them are my enemies unless they're also aiming for point guard.
They're actually my allies...
There really are a lot of tall guys here...
and some foreigners, too.



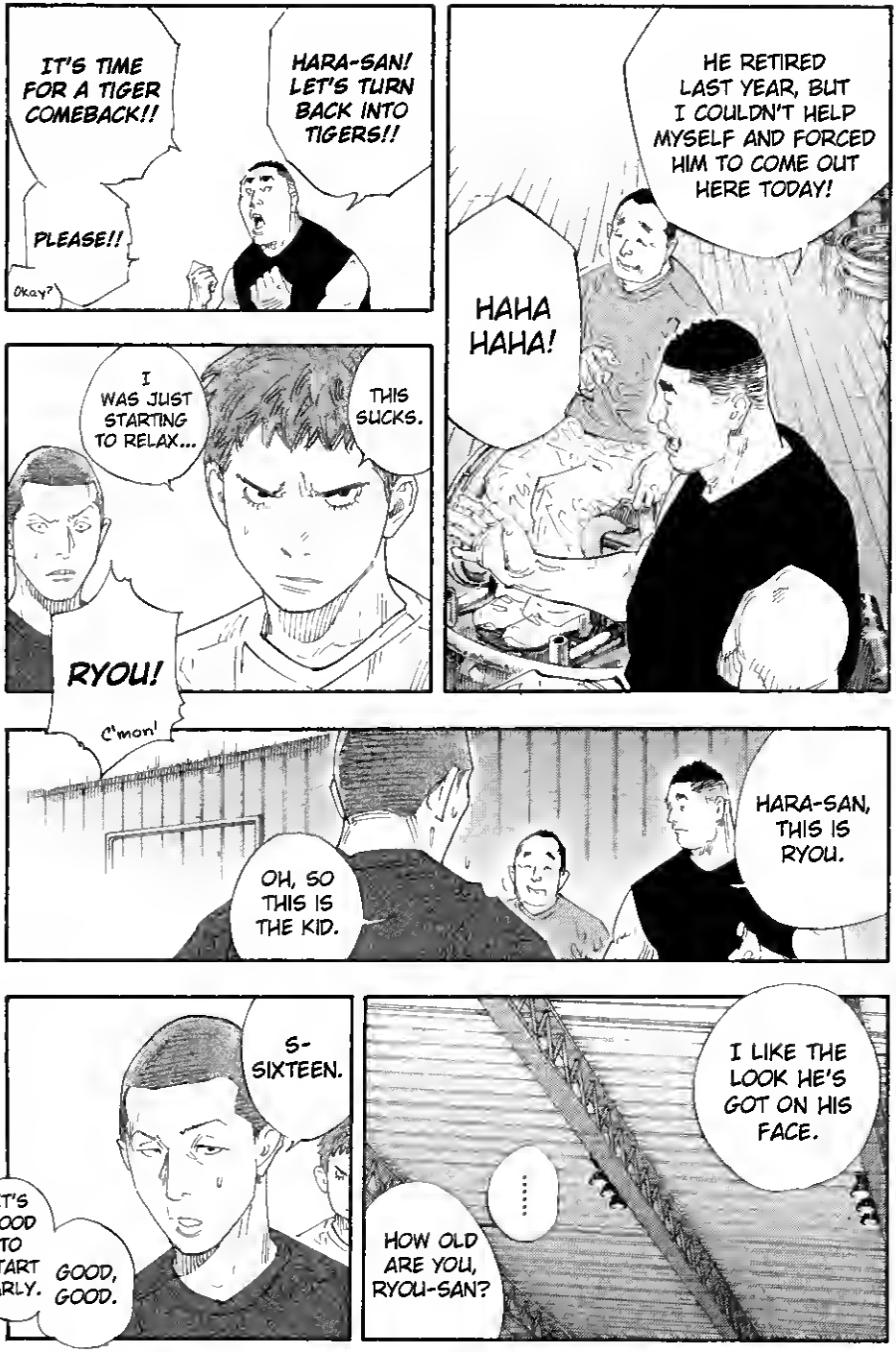




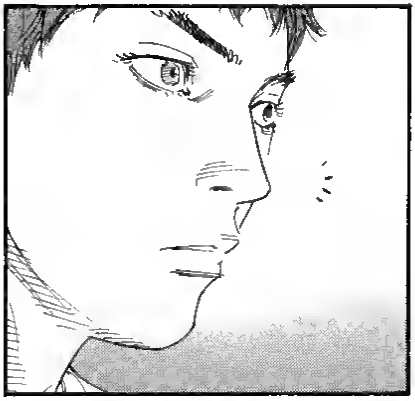


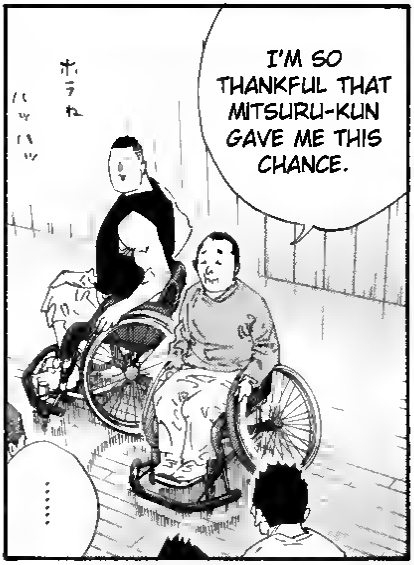
BRING IT IN!!
YES
CAN I HAVE A MINUTE, KANEGON?
THIS IS HARA-SAN.
HUH? I DON'T REMEMBER HEARING ABOUT THIS.
I'D LIKE TO INTRO-DUCE
THE FRIEND I TOLD YOU ALL ABOUT EARLIER.
MM? DIDN'T I TELL YOU GUYS?

I'M HARA.
IT'S AN HONOR TO BE HERE.
UHHHH, HI...
Ahhh...
HUH?
JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT.
OH, SO YOU WERE IN AUSTRALIA?
HARA-SAN IS A FRIEND... ER, A SENIOR OF MINE WHO FOUGHT TOGETHER WITH ME IN AUSTRALIA.


IT'S TIME FOR A TIGER COMEBACK!!
HARA-SAN! LET'S TURN BACK INTO TIGERS!!
PLEASE!!
Okay?
HE RETIRED LAST YEAR, BUT I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF AND FORCED HIM TO COME OUT HERE TODAY!
HAHA HAHA!
I WAS JUST STARTING TO RELAX...
THIS SUCKS.
RYOU!
C'mon!
OH, SO THIS IS THE KID.
HARA-SAN, THIS IS RYOU.
S-SIXTEEN.
IT'S GOOD TO START EARLY.
GOOD, GOOD.
I LIKE THE LOOK HE'S GOT ON HIS FACE.
.....
HOW OLD ARE YOU, RYOU-SAN?

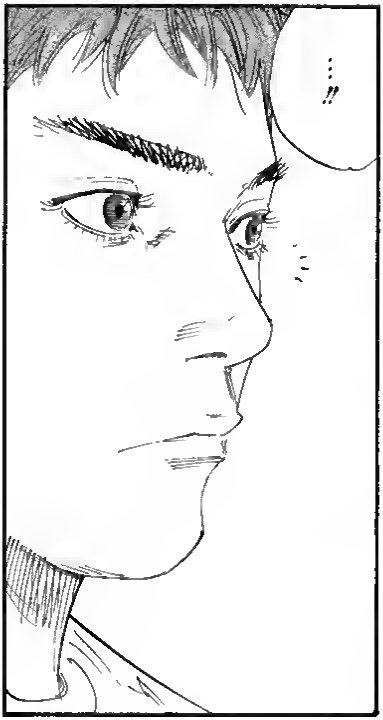
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU INTO THE BEST PLAYER THERE IS, RYOU.
I'M 41.
IT'S A CRITICAL AGE.
IT'S AN HONOR TO BE ABLE TO PLAY WITH YOU ALL.
!!
I WANT TO TAKE ALL THAT I'VE BUILT UP FOR 22 YEARS,
SINCE I WAS 18... MY TECHNIQUE,
.....
SEEMS THAT THERE'S ONE LAST PIECE OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS FOR HARA-SAN.

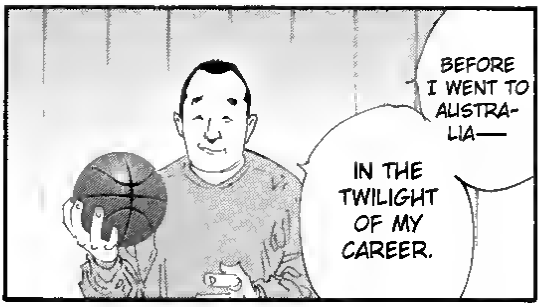



I'M SO THANKFUL THAT MITSURU-KUN GAVE ME THIS CHANCE.
……

YOU WERE ONCE A MEMBER OF THE DREAMS, WEREN'T YOU, HARA-SAN?
UMMM …
WHAT, REALLY?

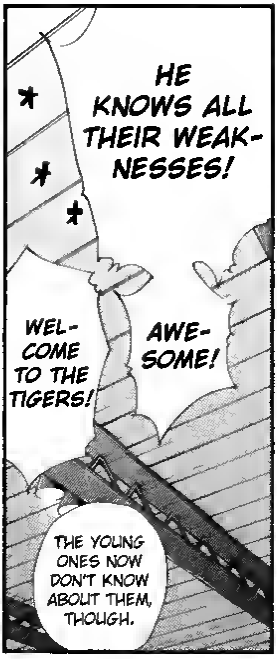
MY WISDOM…
MY THEO-RIES.
UP UNTIL NOW, I'VE USED THEM ONLY FOR MYSELF.
BUT NOW, I'D LIKE TO TEACH THEM
TO PEOPLE. HELP PEOPLE GROW.
SHARE THEM, BASICALLY.

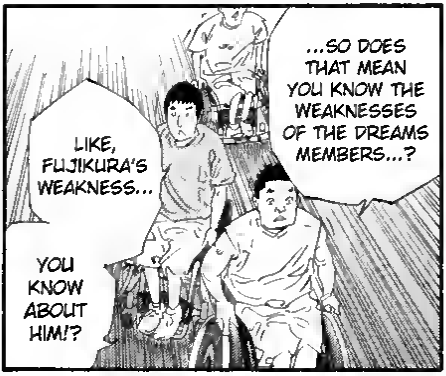

...!!

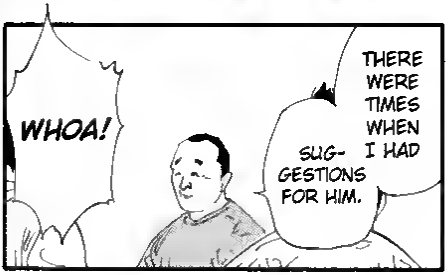

BEFORE I WENT TO AUSTRALIA——
IN THE TWILIGHT OF MY CAREER.

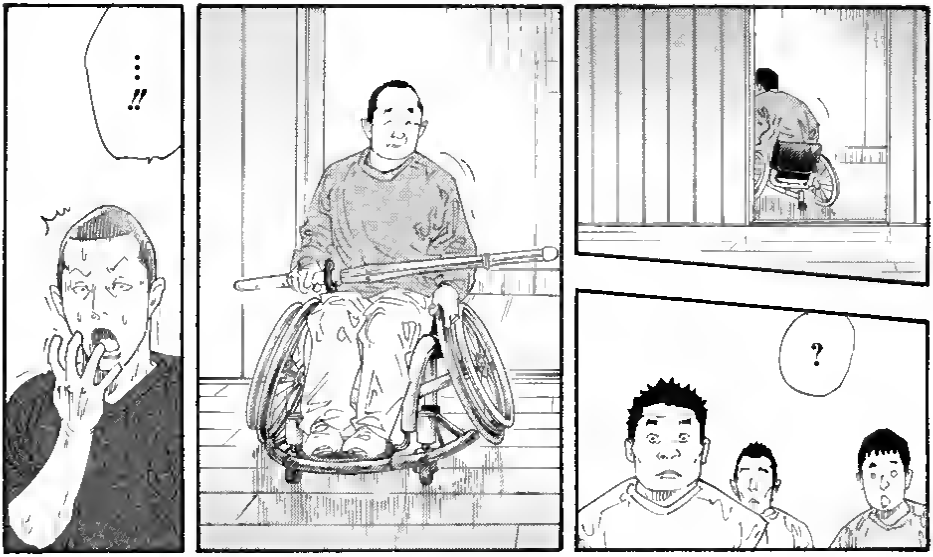
I KNEW IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...
I HAD ALWAYS WANTED TO SHARE THE EXPERIENCE I HAD IN THAT PERIOD, BUT FOR SOME REASON I HELD BACK...
I FEARED THAT OTHERS WOULD FEEL I WAS OVER-STEPPING MY BOUNDARIES.
Dreams

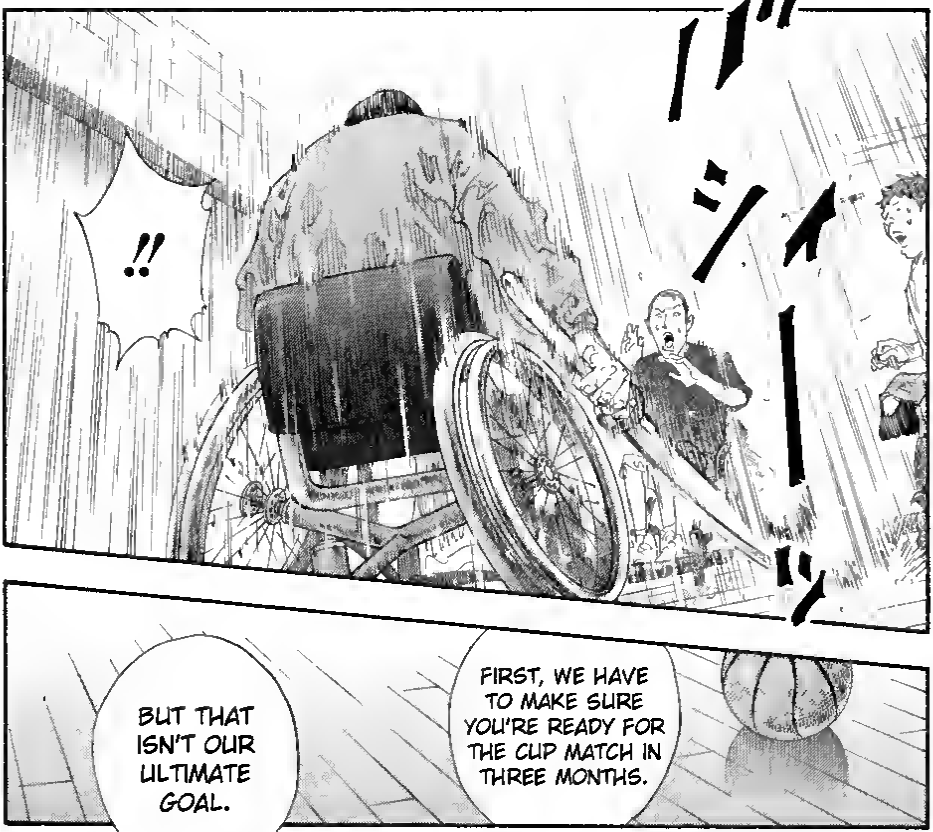
HEH...
I HELD BACK THEN, BUT NOW...

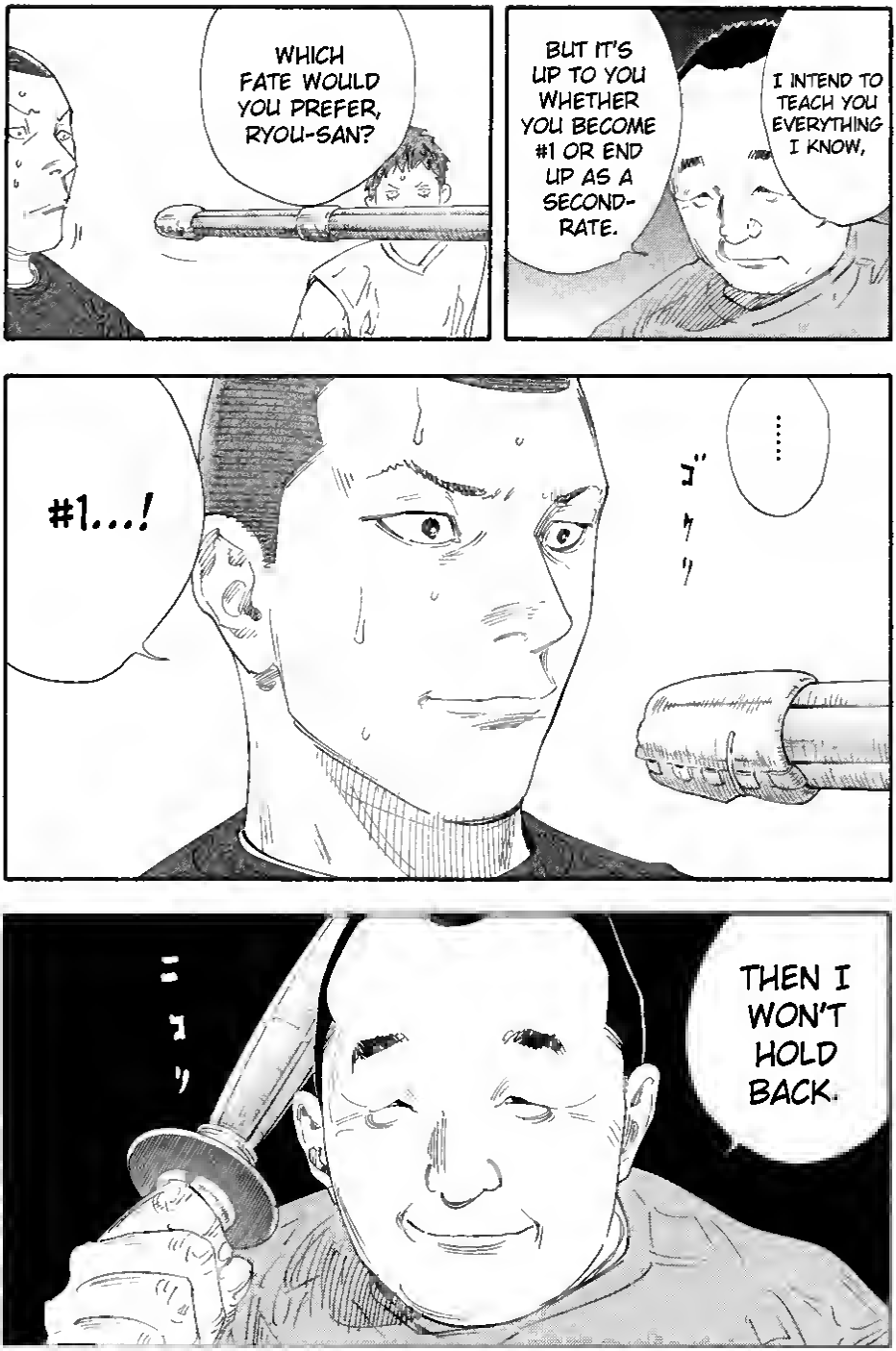

HE KNOWS ALL THEIR WEAK-NESSES!
AWE-SOME!
WEL-COME TO THE TIGERS!
THE YOUNG ONES NOW DON'T KNOW ABOUT THEM, THOUGH.

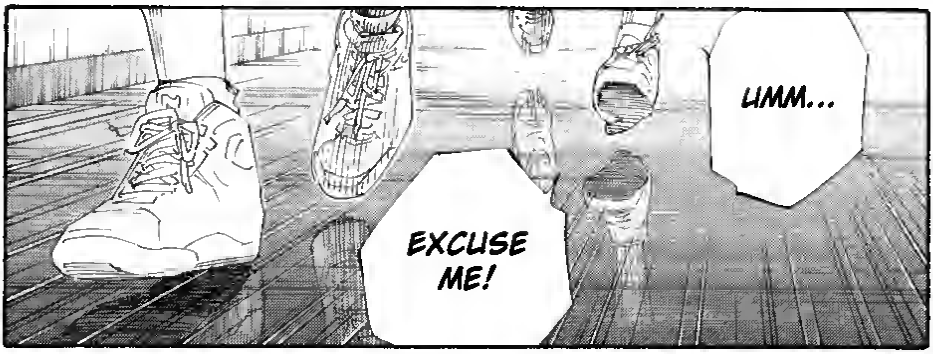

...SO DOES THAT MEAN YOU KNOW THE WEAKNESSES OF THE DREAMS MEMBERS...?
LIKE, FUJIKURA'S WEAKNESS...
YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM!?


WHOA!
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I HAD SUG-GESTIONS FOR HIM.


……!!
?

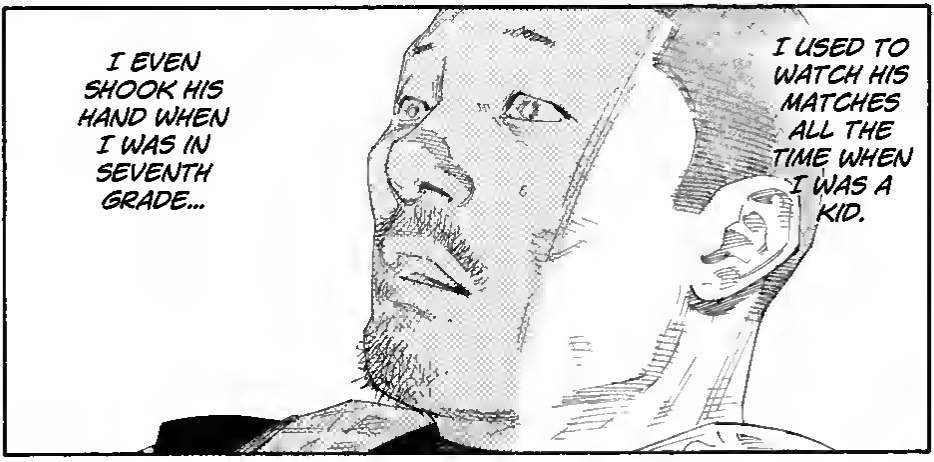

バシィーン
!!
BUT THAT ISN'T OUR ULTIMATE GOAL.
FIRST, WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE READY FOR THE CUP MATCH IN THREE MONTHS.


WHICH FATE WOULD YOU PREFER, RYOU-SAN?
I INTEND TO TEACH YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW,
BUT IT'S UP TO YOU WHETHER YOU BECOME #1 OR END UP AS A SECOND-RATE.
#1...!
ゴクリ
……
ニヤリ
THEN I WON'T HOLD BACK.


UMM...
EXCUSE ME!

UNLESS YOU WANT THE SHIT BEAT OUT OF YOU.
NO ONE'S GONNA BEAT ME.
6
...
WHEN I WAS A KID I——
GO AWAY.
YOU'RE HIROSE, AREN'T YOU?
FROM THE URAWA BRUINS!
6

I'LL MAKE IT SO YOU'LL NEVER WANT TO PLAY BASKETBALL AGAIN.
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO BE PRO.

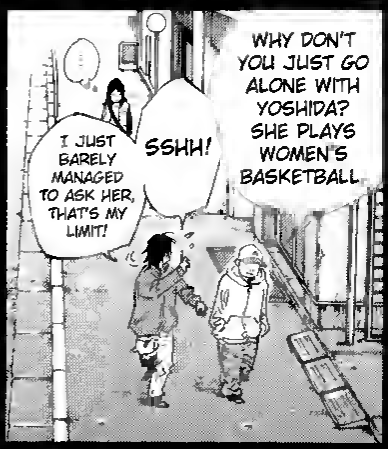

I EVEN SHOOK HIS HAND WHEN I WAS IN SEVENTH GRADE...
I USED TO WATCH HIS MATCHES ALL THE TIME WHEN I WAS A KID.

EVERYONE HERE IS MY ENEMY.

Tanaka Junichi. He's a good coach.
He's got a long face.
He's got some flab on his chin,
but he tries to use his beard to mask it.

HEY, COME ON, TOMO-CHAN!
I GOT AN EXTRA TICKET HERE!
JAPANESE BASKETBALL? FORGET IT.

I WATCH THE NBA, BUT...
PLEASE! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BASKETBALL,
SO WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY CONVER-SATION!
C'MON, DON'T BE LIKE THAT!


WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO ALONE WITH YOSHIDA? SHE PLAYS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
SSHH!
I JUST BARELY MANAGED TO ASK HER, THAT'S MY LIMIT!

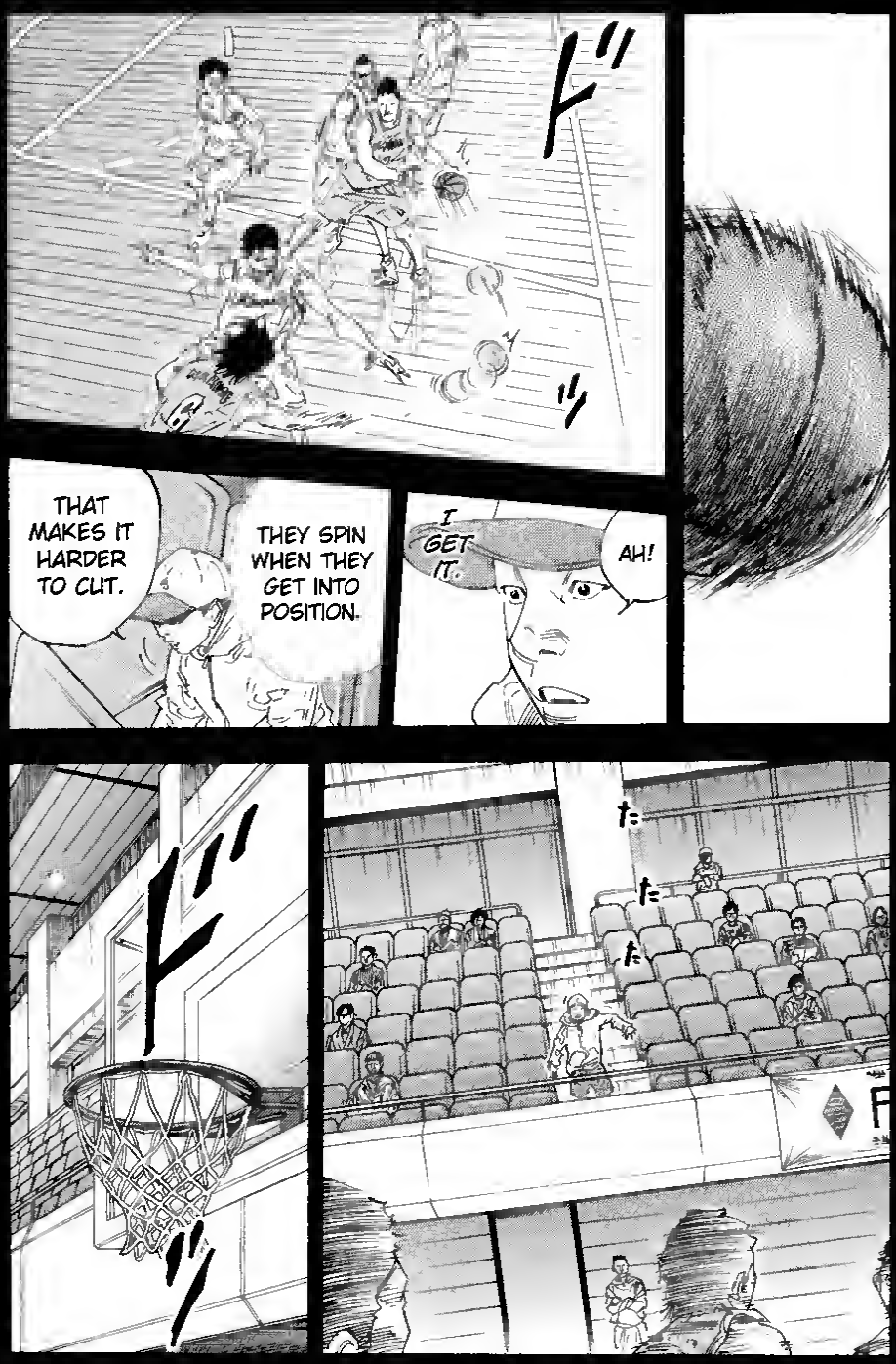
ANY BASKETBALL IS STILL BASKETBALL, RIGHT?

# 62nd.

プロバスケットボ
……
THE GAME'S STARTED ALREADY!
So many open seats...
ANY PLAYERS YOU KNOW?
THIS WAY, YOSHIDA!
...NOPE.
WHAT'S WRONG?
SORRY, YAMA-MOTO, NOMIYA...
I'M LEAVING.
WHAT!?

I GUESS I'LL JUST WATCH THE FIRST HALF AND THEN GO HOME.
That's what you get for trying to fish her with basketball...
MY MOM SAID SHE'S NOT COMING BACK.
Sorry.
WAIT!
WHA...
There she goes.
I BET IT'S MORE FUN TO PLAY BASKETBALL THAN WATCHING IT ANYWAY.

I should have brought one.
A ball...
So I'd at least have something to do.
BRUINS
THOSE GUYS WORK OUT THAT MUCH?
THAT'S SOME NOISE
I NEED TO DO SOME MYSELF.


ドゴ
ドゴ
THAT MAKES IT HARDER TO CUT.
THEY SPIN WHEN THEY GET INTO POSITION.
I GET IT.
AH!
ドゴ
t=
t=
t=

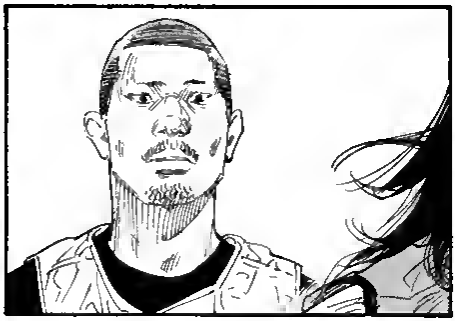
POINT GUARD'S NAME?
WHAT'S THAT
WHOAAAAA!
NARUSE
NARUSEEEEE!

WHAT GRADE ARE YOU IN?
SEVENTH!
URAWA
6
WRITE "TO TOMO-CHAN!"

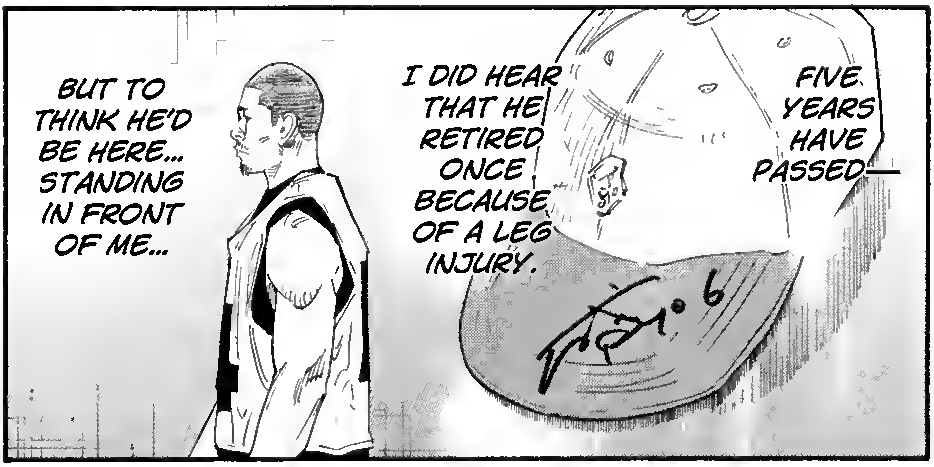
EVERYONE IS MY ENEMY.

ズ…
ズ
ズ
14

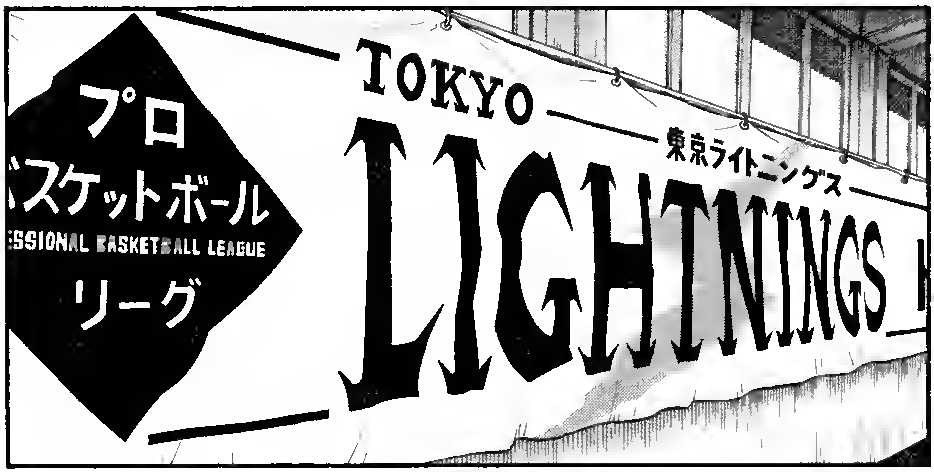
HMPH.

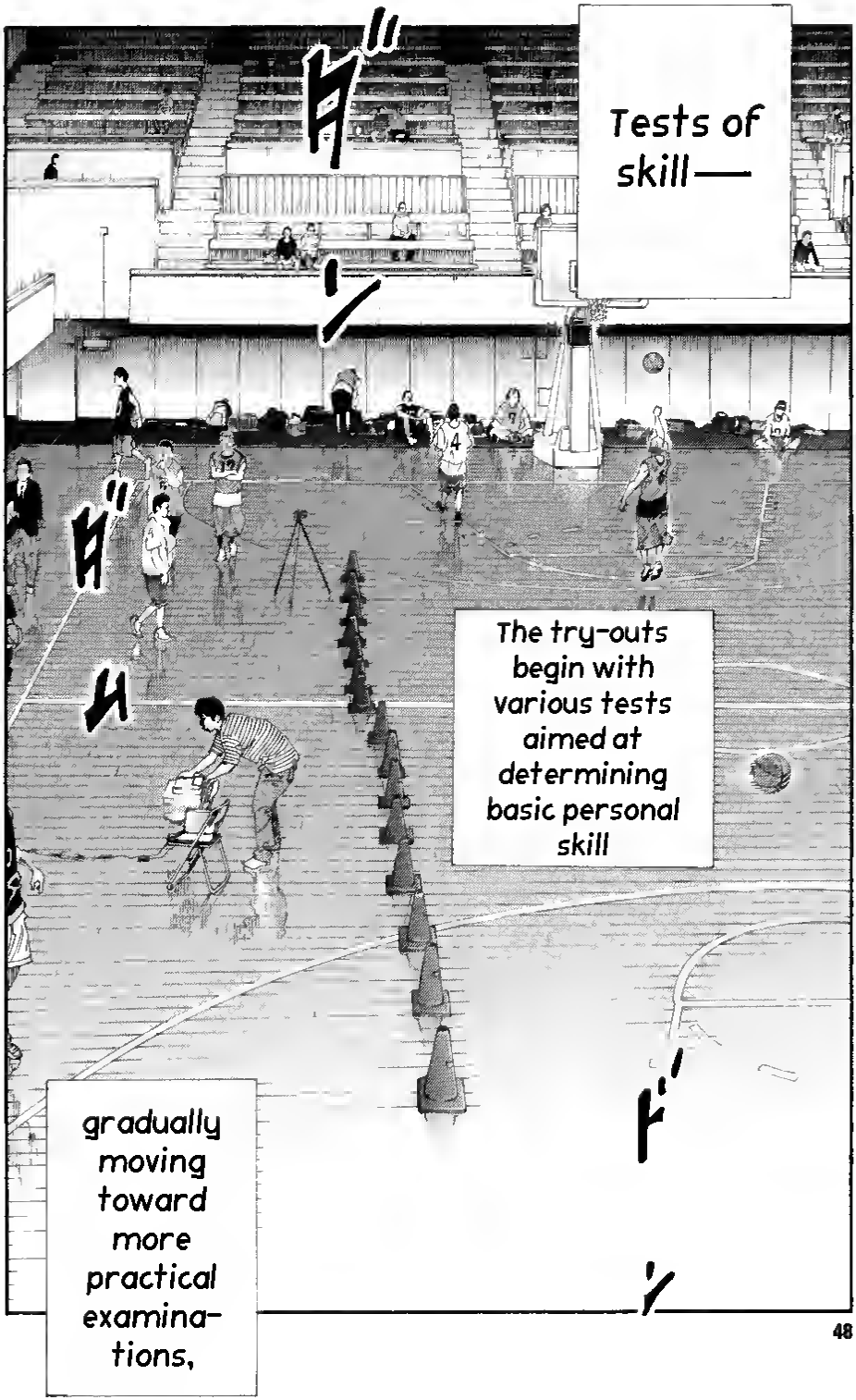


ズ


FIVE YEARS HAVE PASSED—
I DID HEAR THAT HE RETIRED ONCE BECAUSE OF A LEG INJURY.
BUT TO THINK HE'D BE HERE... STANDING IN FRONT OF ME...

I hope
we both get selected...

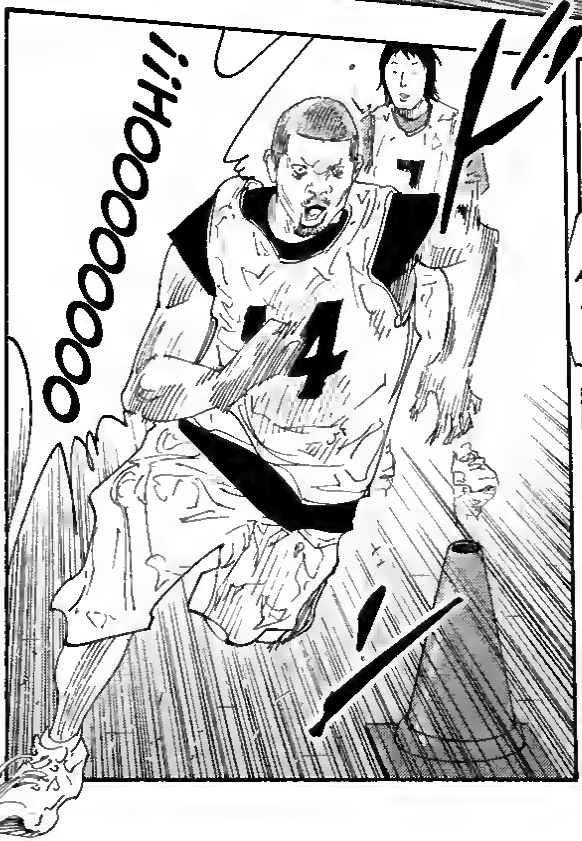

TOKYO
東京ライトニングス
LIGHTNINGS
プロ
スケットボール
SSIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE
リーグ

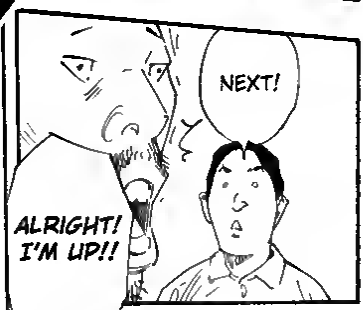

Tests of skill——
The try-outs begin with various tests aimed at determining basic personal skill
gradually moving toward more practical examina-tions,

and ending with a scrimmage.
THE COLOR OF YOUR JERSEY DETERMINES YOUR TEAM!
GATHER UP WITH YOUR TEAM!
I'M NOMIYA TOMOMI, FROM NISHI HIGH. I'M A POINT GUARD, NICE TO MEET YOU.
LET'S INTRODUCE OURSELVES.
I'M HIDEJIMA.
AHH!!
WHITE!
OKAY, WHITE TEAM, OVER HERE!

OH, YOU'RE THAT ONE GUY.
I'M NOMIYA. NICE TO MEET YOU.
……
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
I'LL PAY YOU BACK TOMORROW, I PROM-ISE!!
WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE THE LEADER?
NISHI HIGH, HUH? I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THEY HAD A TEAM.
JUST DON'T DRAG US DOWN.
……
……
……

Box drills,
defense footwork...
キュッ
キュッ
キュッ
キュッ


ドン!!
OOOOOOOH!!


NEXT!
ALRIGHT! I'M UP!!

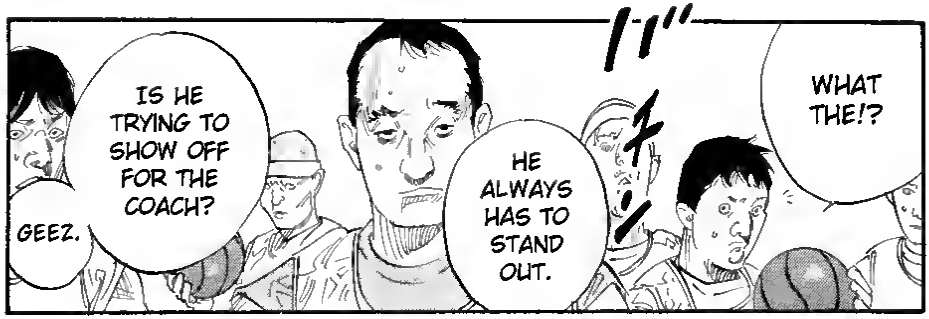
!!!OOOOOOO

HEY, YEAH!
OHHH!
キュッ
キュッ
キュッ
キュッ
1
2
ドリー
HOOOO.
14

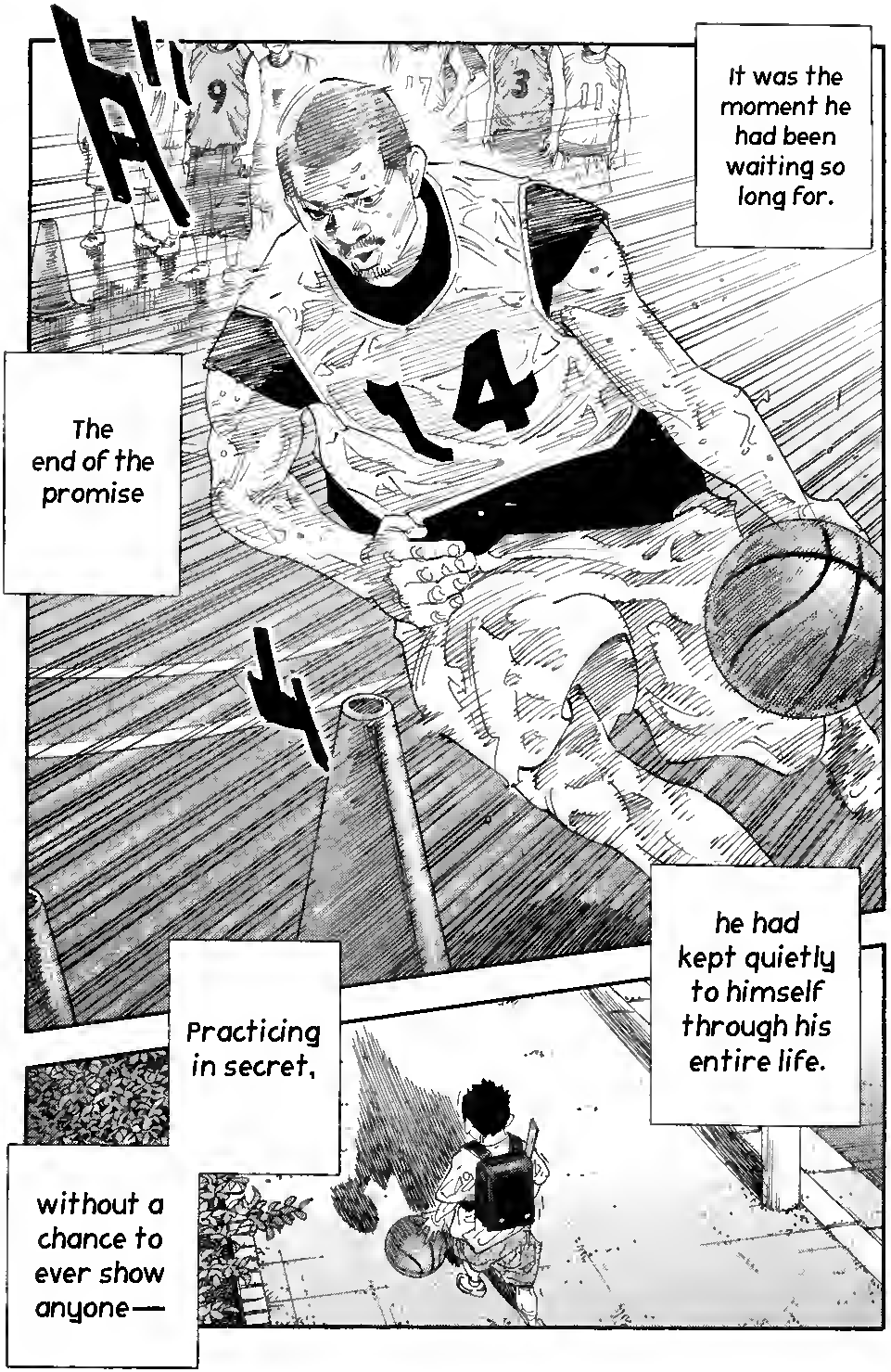
7
including reverse lay-ups,
8
Mikan drills,
3
4
which involve approaching the basket alternating from left and right,
9
10
14
!
4

1
tap drills.
2
3
I should have practiced my lefts more.
hah
hah
hah
I missed a lot.
14
4
OKAAAAY!
5
DON'T WORRY!!
I missed!
Ahhh!
1
2
AHH!

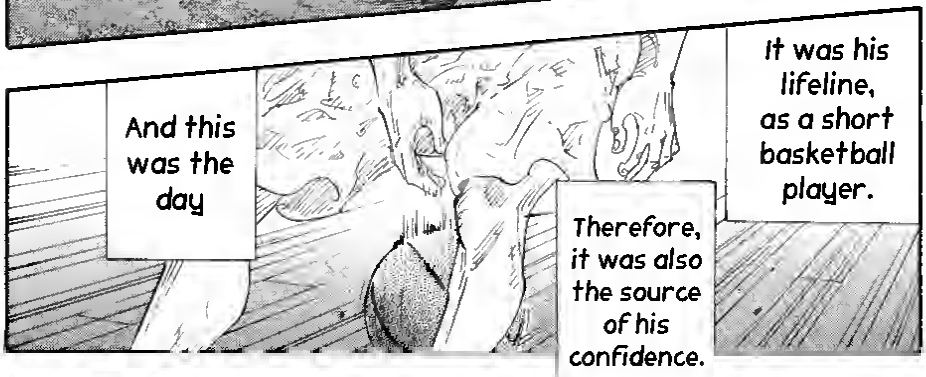
ZIG-ZAG THROUGH THE CONES ON THE FLOOR—
Here we go!
cone drills,
to examine dribbling skill,
LIGHTNINGS
AND A BEHIND-THE-BACK FOR YOUR THIRD TIME.
This is it!
FIRST, GO THROUGH WITH A FRONT CHANGE TO A ROLL,
THEN THROUGH THE LEGS THE SECOND TIME,
THIS IS THE BIG ONE...!!


GEEZ.
IS HE TRYING TO SHOW OFF FOR THE COACH?
HE ALWAYS HAS TO STAND OUT.
WHAT THE!?

That wasn't it.


It was the moment he had been waiting so long for.
The end of the promise
he had kept quietly to himself through his entire life.
Practicing in secret,
without a chance to ever show anyone—

If I stop practicing for one day, then I'll quit basketball.


And this was the day
It was his lifeline, as a short basketball player.
Therefore, it was also the source of his confidence.

when light finally shone down on the skills he had honed—

OHHHHHHH!!
THIS IS THE LAST ONE!!
OHHH!

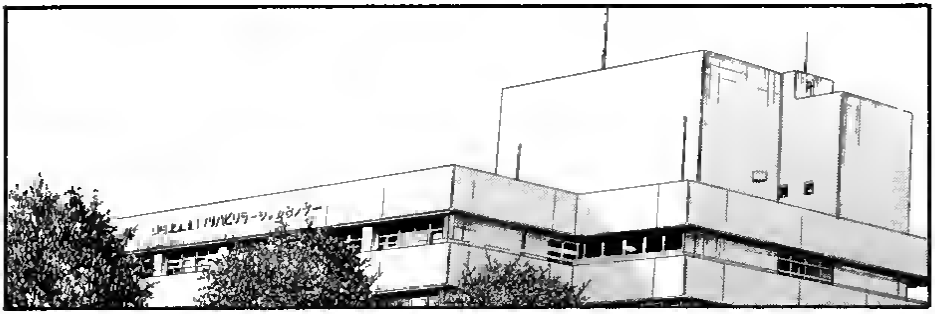
NICE ONE!
YEAAAAH!!
HAH
HAH
HAH
NEXT!!
HAH

I'M SO GLAD I PRACTICED EVERYDAY.
BUT NOW COMES THE REAL TEST.

ｱﾞﾙﾙ
ﾌﾞﾙﾙ
ﾌﾞﾙﾙ
……!!
IS MY VOICE SHAKING?
THIS IS THE REAL...
……
NOW I'M GETTING NERVOUS!?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
But you don't belong here.
Don't listen to it!
You did more than enough,
for a nameless player.

FURTHER FORWARD.
I'M GOING FORWARD.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, WHITE TEAM!!
WE'RE ALL GONNA PASS THIS TEST!!
14

HUH?



You played basketball?

GUH...
GUHHHHHHHH!
HAH
HAH
HAH
OKAY! THAT'S IT, NOBU!!
GOOD WORK!

HAH
HAH
HAH
You do hold the ball differently.
NOBU'S CHANGED.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ENTERING A NEW STAGE.
SEEMS LIKE HIS MOTHER'S GOTTEN OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, TOO.
HIS SULKINESS IS GONE.
THERE'S FIRE IN HIS EYES.

REALLY...
THIS IS GOOD.
EXCEPT...
ON THE OTHER HAND...
EPS
AHH...!!

THE DREAMS...

THE REPRESENT-ATIVE TEAM... OF JAPAN...!!

KING OF THE CITY!

THAT GUY!

NAGAI... SOME-THING!

ON THE OTHER HAND...

I'M WORRIED ABOUT SCORPION...

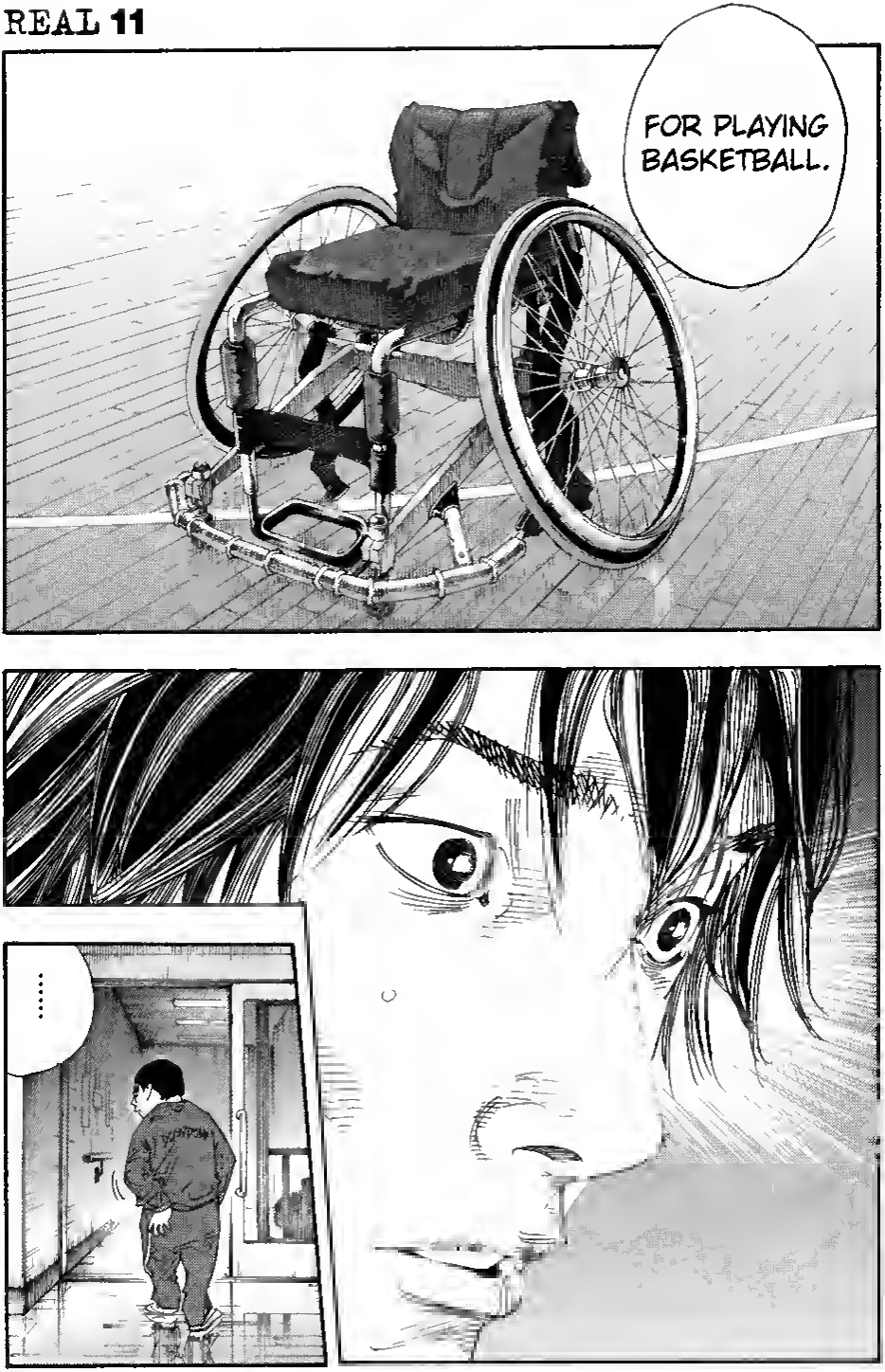
.....

SHIRATORI-SAN...?

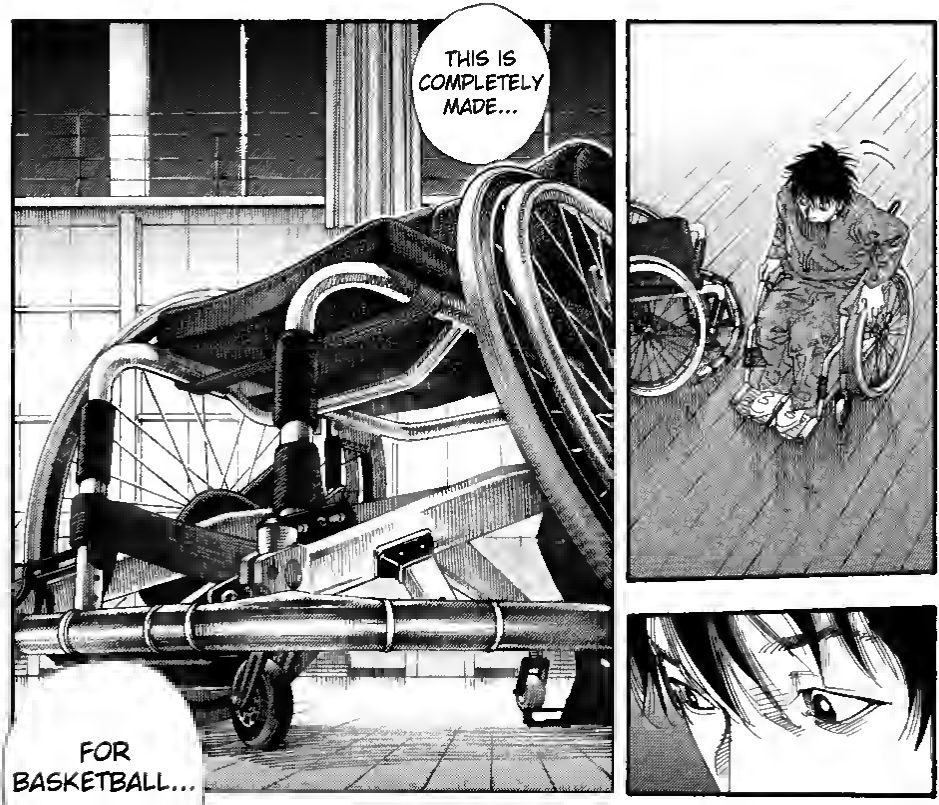
.....
.....
Your mother got released from the hospital.
-Dad
SHE'S OUT...

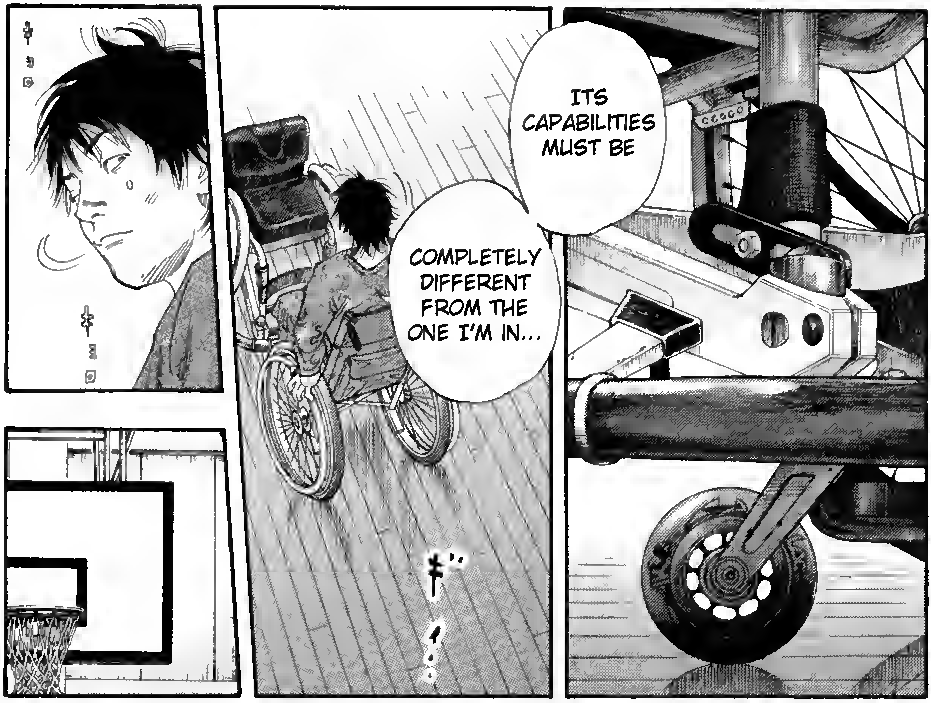
Die.
IF SHE COMES,
I'LL APOLO-GIZE.
I PROMISE.
BUT NOW IT LOOKS CLOSER THAN IT DID YESTERDAY.
IT'S STRANGE ...
IT USED TO LOOK SO FAR AWAY.

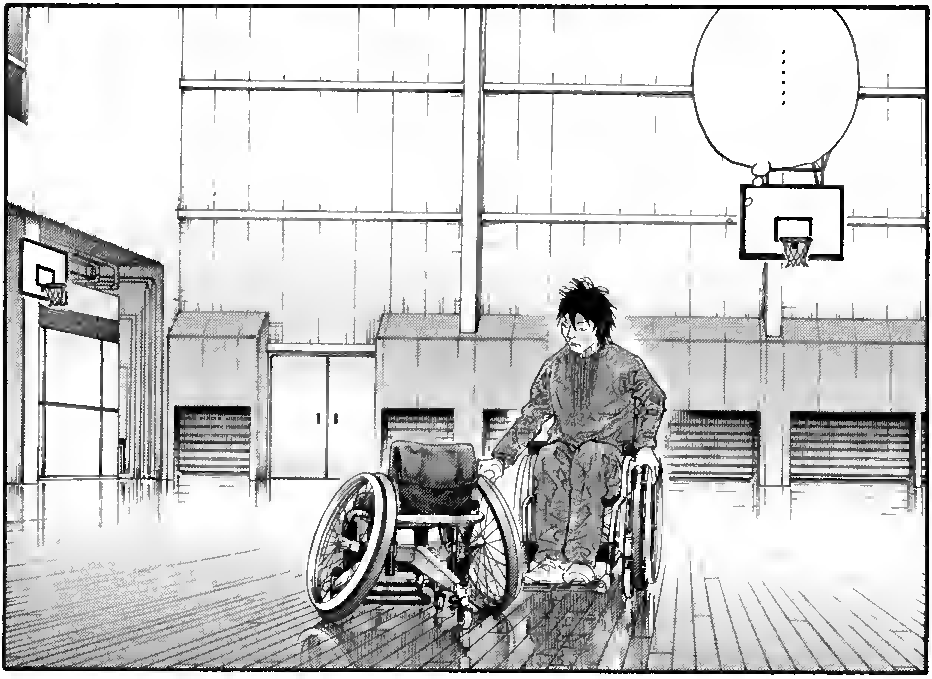
!!
HEY! WHO THE HELL'S IN HERE! DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS!?
...YOU AGAIN, FAGGOT?
JUST WHO I WANTED TO SEE. GO PUT THIS IN THE BACK ROOM FOR ME.
HUH... ME?
IT'S A WHEELCHAIR...


FOR PLAYING BASKETBALL.
.....

# 63rd.


THIS IS COMPLETELY MADE...
FOR BASKETBALL...


ITS CAPABILITIES MUST BE
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE I'M IN...

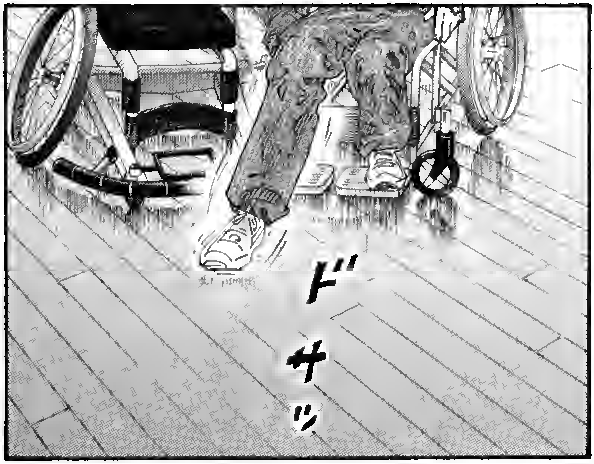

.....

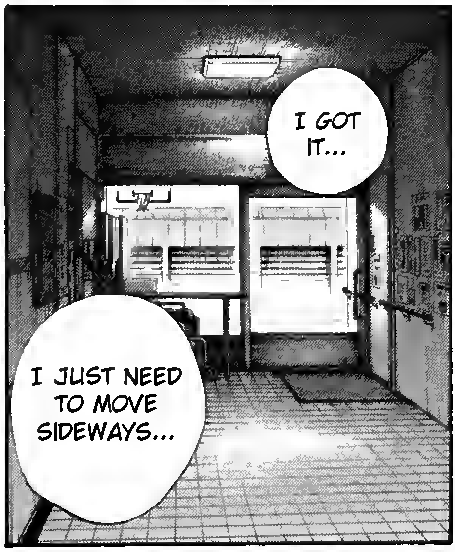
FIRST I NEED TO
STOP MY OWN.
WAIT.
ALRIGHT.
JUST NEED TO GET IT CLOSE...
THIS SHOULD BE THE RIGHT POSITION.
I'M GONNA GET ON.

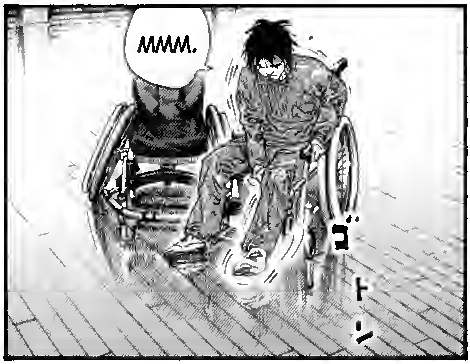
OK
A LITTLE CLOSER...
AS CLOSE AS I CAN GET...
NO, JUST A LITTLE MORE.
GET A BIT LOWER...
JUST MOVE A BIT FORWARD...
ONE, TWO,
NOW.
NEXT...
MMMM!

ONE... TWO!

NOW THIS ONE...


ドサッ

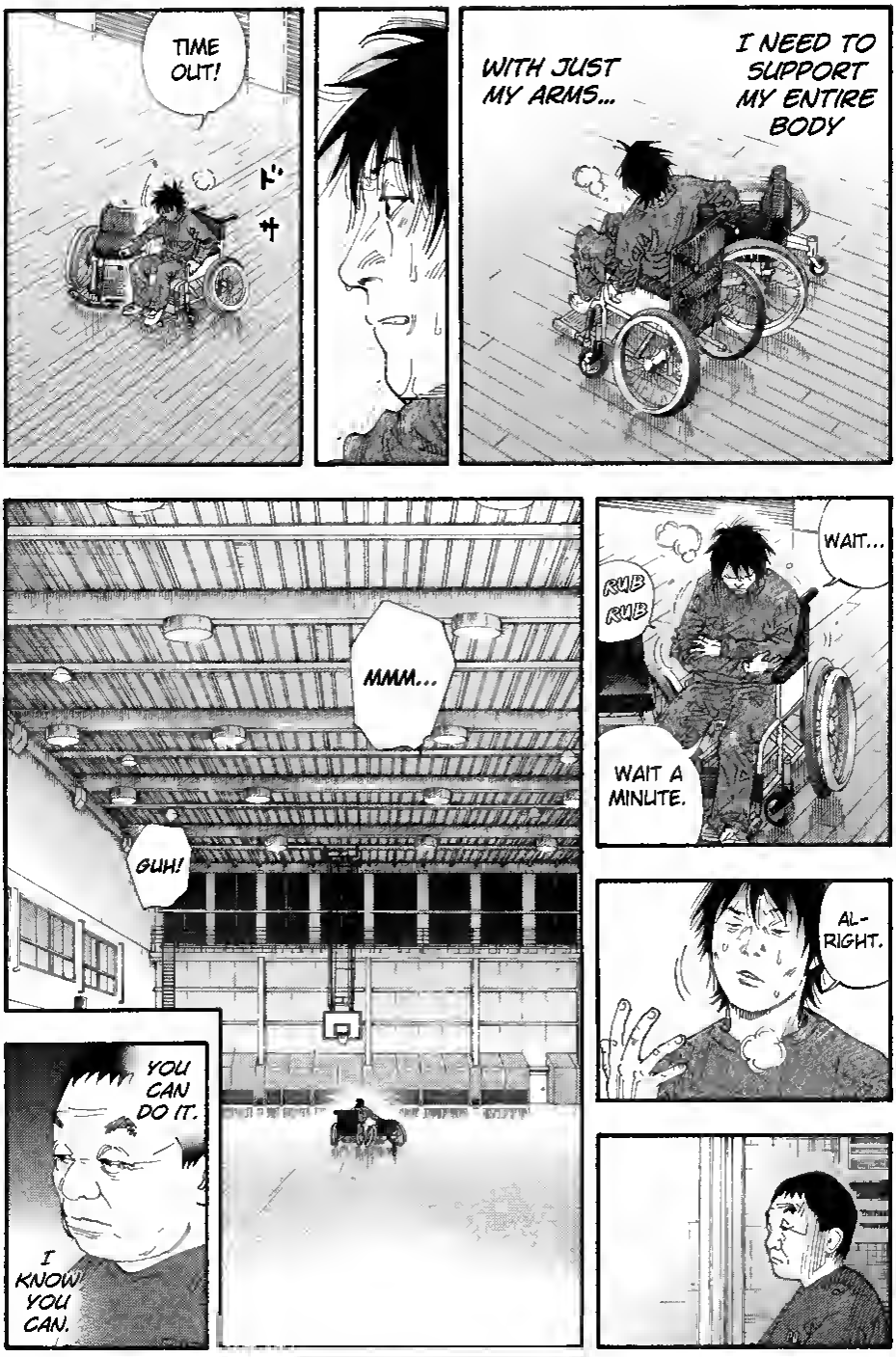

I GOT IT...
I JUST NEED TO MOVE SIDEWAYS...


MMM.
コトン

NEXT...
HOO...

THIS IS NOTHING. IT'S A DAILY THING.
THEY CHANGE WHEELCHAIRS EVERY TIME THEY GO TO PRACTICE.
FOR PEOPLE WHO PLAY BASKETBALL IN WHEEL-CHAIRS...
HAHA!
HOW CAN I LET SOMETHING LIKE THIS STOP ME!?
.....

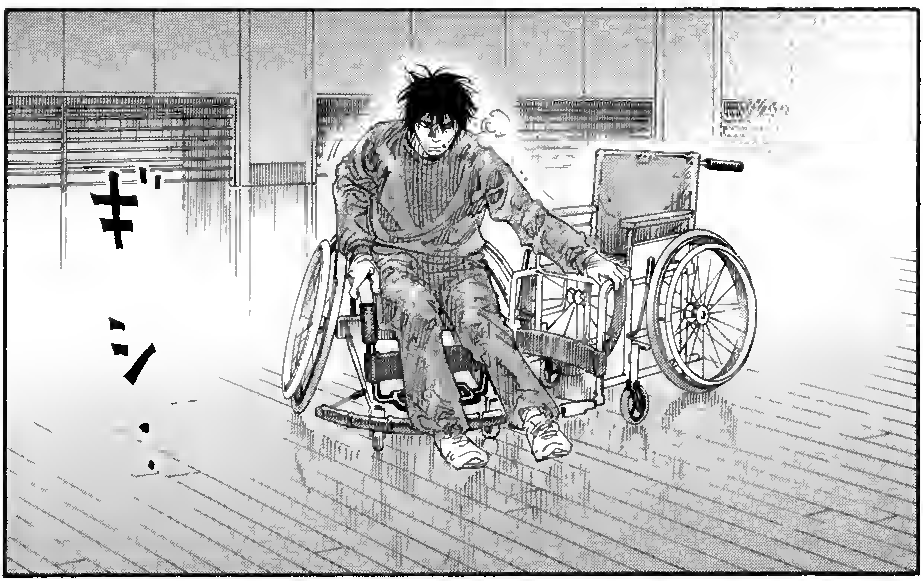
DON'T FALL!
OKAY!
THIS IS IT...

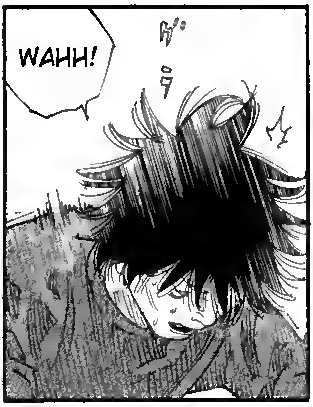

TIME OUT!
WITH JUST MY ARMS...
I NEED TO SUPPORT MY ENTIRE BODY
MMM...
GUH!
WAIT...
RUB RUB
WAIT A MINUTE.
AL-RIGHT.
YOU CAN DO IT.
I KNOW YOU CAN.

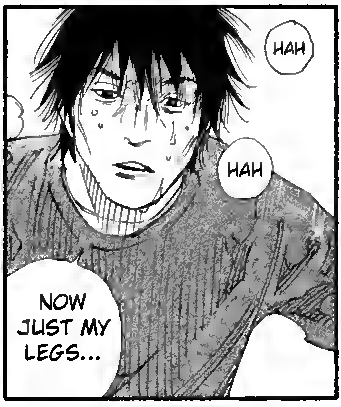
GUH...
DAMMIT ...

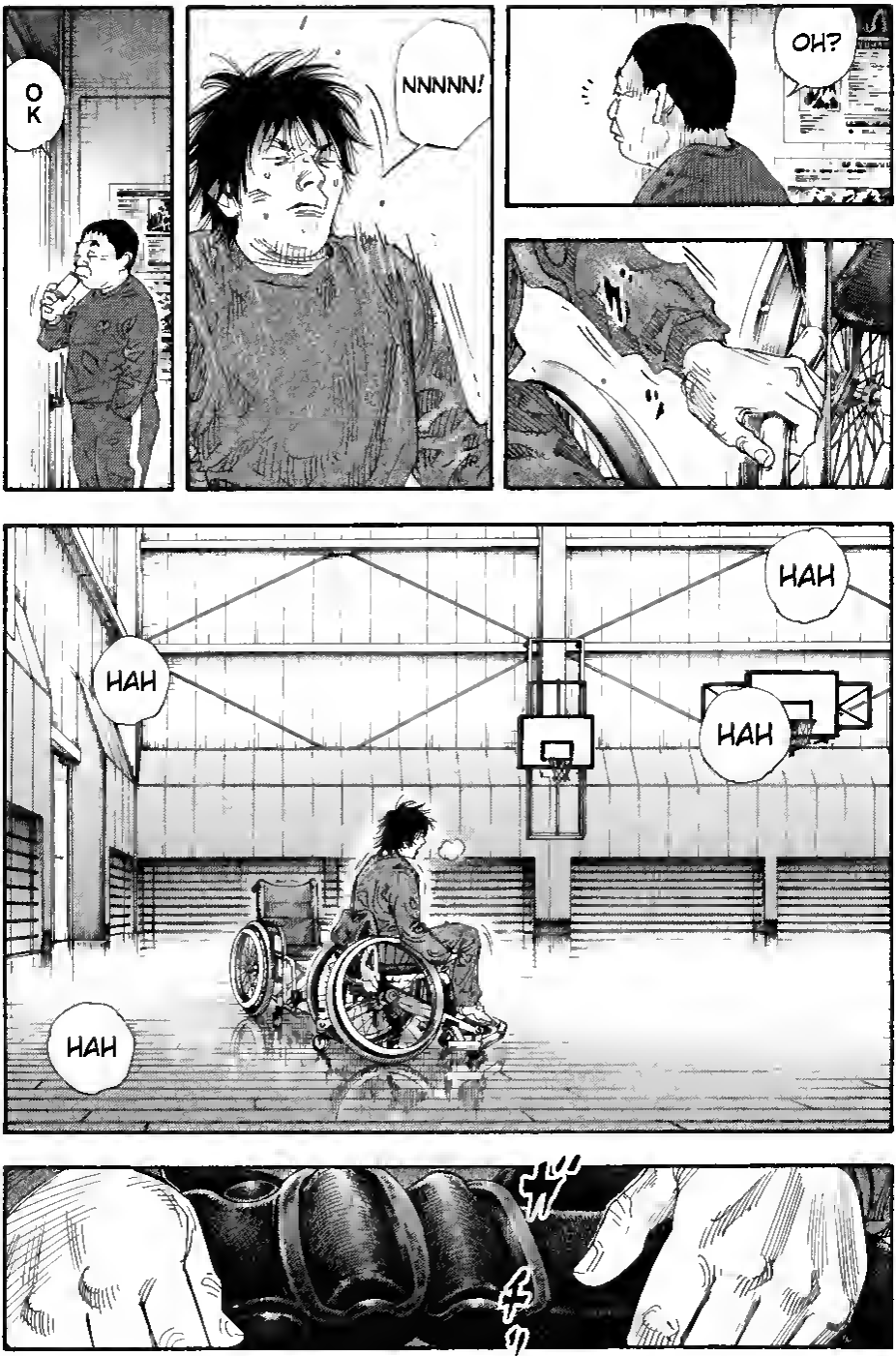
REHABILITATION.

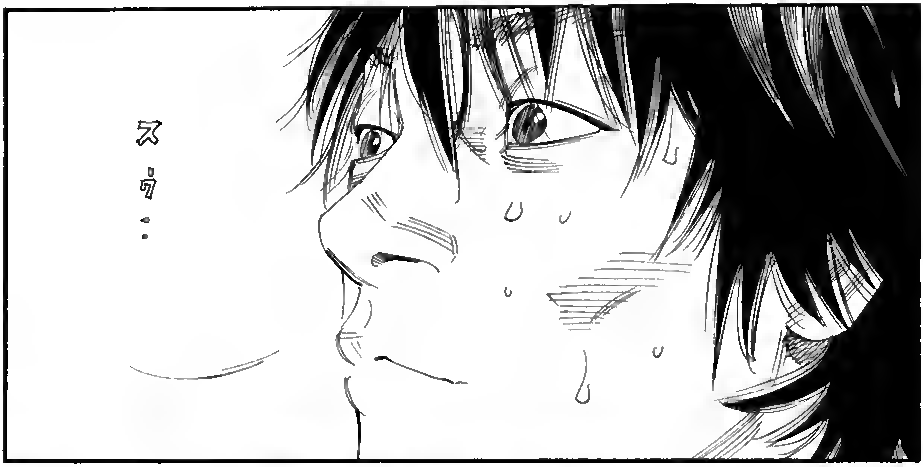
I NEED MORE...

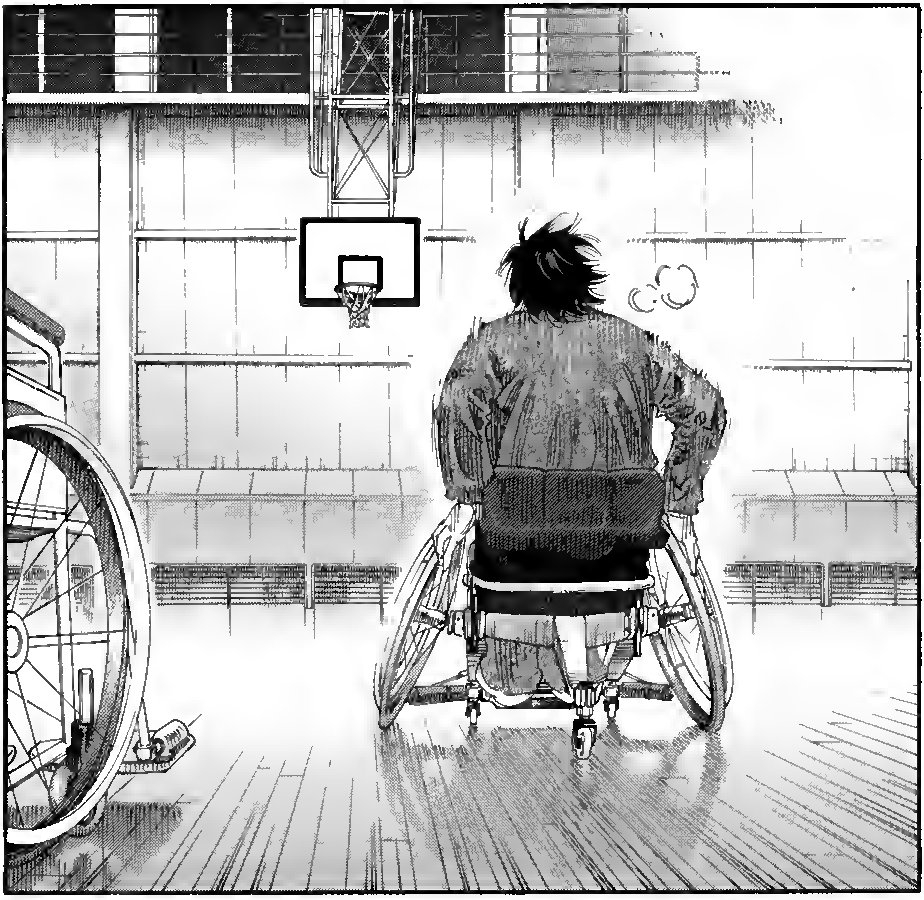


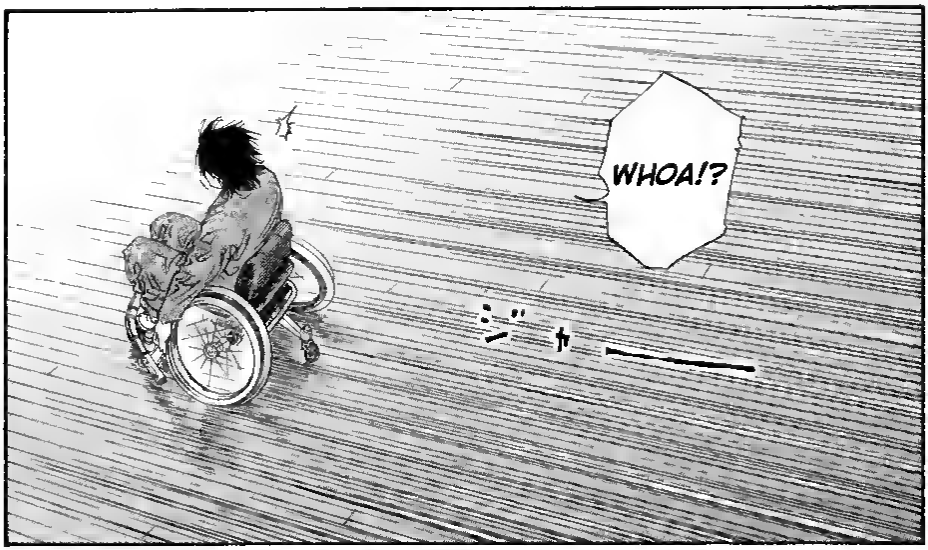



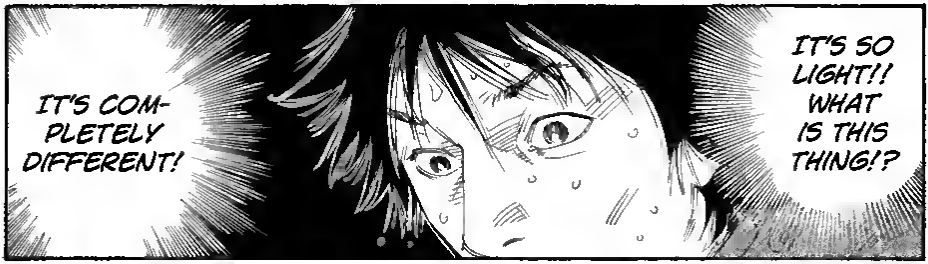


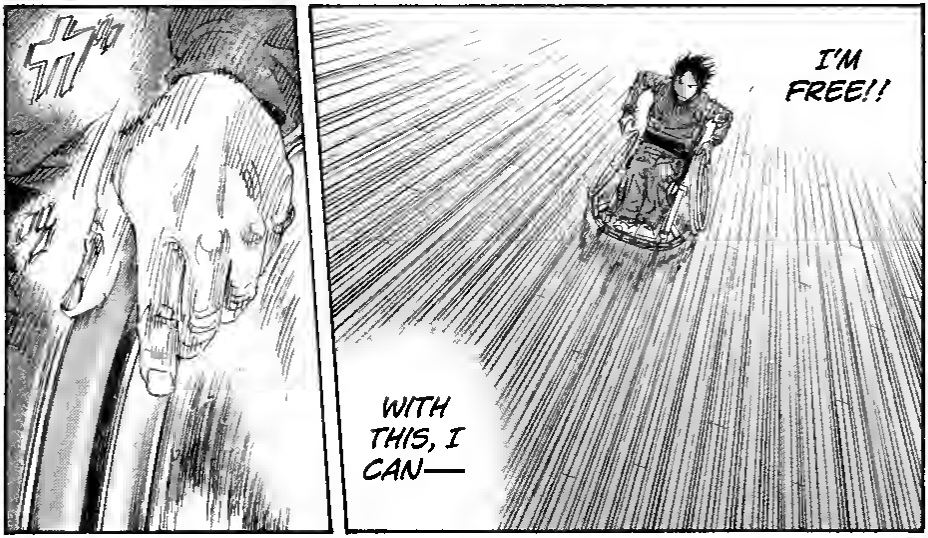

OK
NNNNN!
OH?
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH


スゥ…

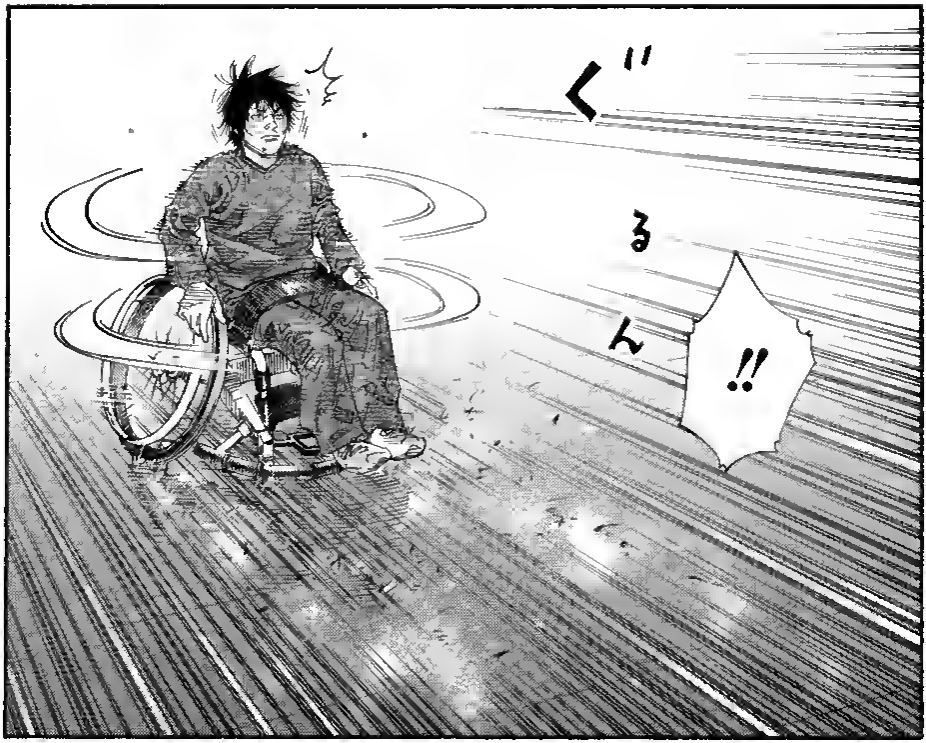



WHOA!?


IT'S COM-
PLETELY
DIFFERENT!
IT'S SO
LIGHT!!
WHAT
IS THIS
THING!?


I'M
FREE!!
WITH
THIS, I
CAN——

!?
HUH?
!!
I need balance
And I can't strain myself.
Okay...
.....!?
WAIT... UMM...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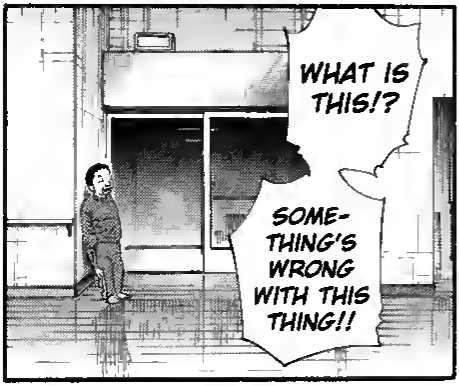
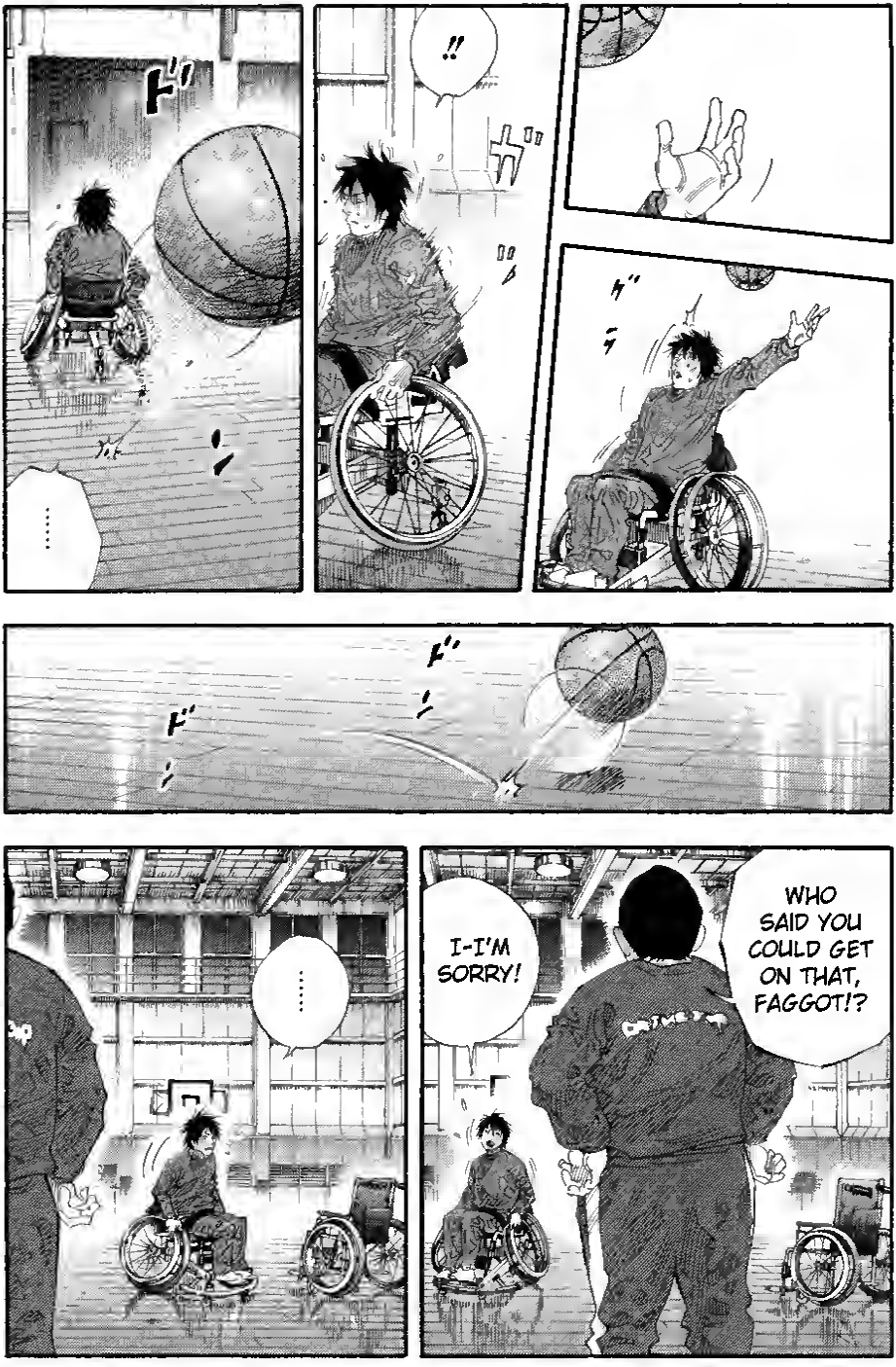

WHAT IS THIS!?
SOME-THING'S WRONG WITH THIS THING!!

DAMMIT!!

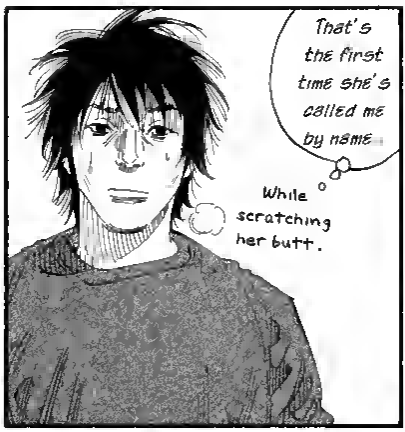
HEH HEH...

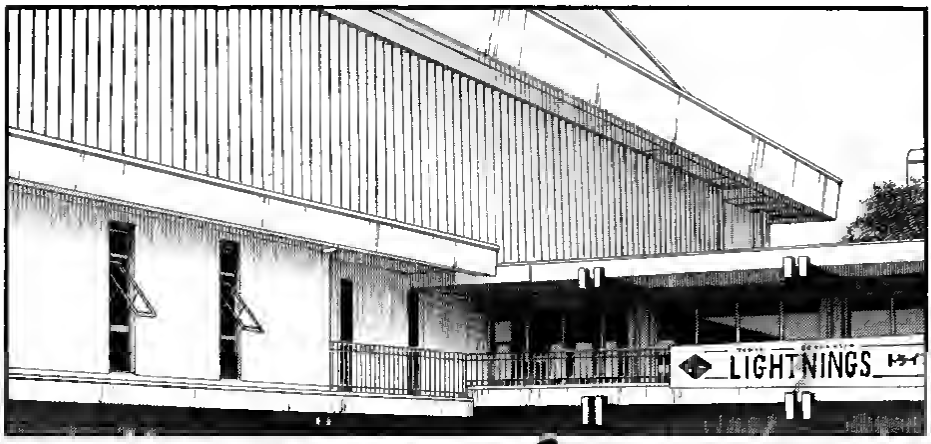
WHY CAN'T I!?
THEY COULD ALL MOVE SO FREELY.
I FEEL LIKE I'M ON ICE——

HAH! NOW YOU FINALLY SHOW
YOUR TRUE FACE.
AH!
!?


ドドドド
!!
ガ
ドドドド
ドドドド
……
……
I-I'M SORRY!
WHO SAID YOU COULD GET ON THAT, FAGGOT!?

CAN'T HANDLE THAT TOOL, CAN YOU?
HEH HEH...
GUH
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN YOUR REAL FACE.
FORGET IT.
HUH?
OVER THE TOP
TAKAHASHI HISANOBU.
GO AHEAD, TRY TO TAME IT... IF YOU CAN.
.....!

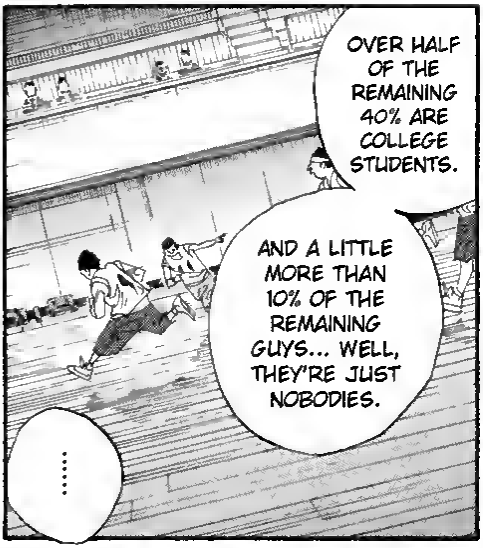

That's the first time she's called me by name
While scratching her butt.

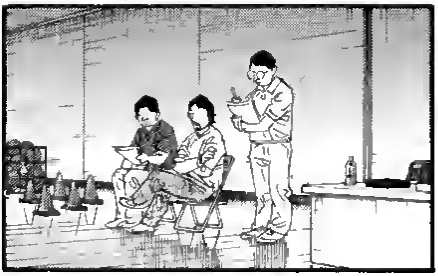

LIGHTNINGS

ピ
ドドドド
キュ

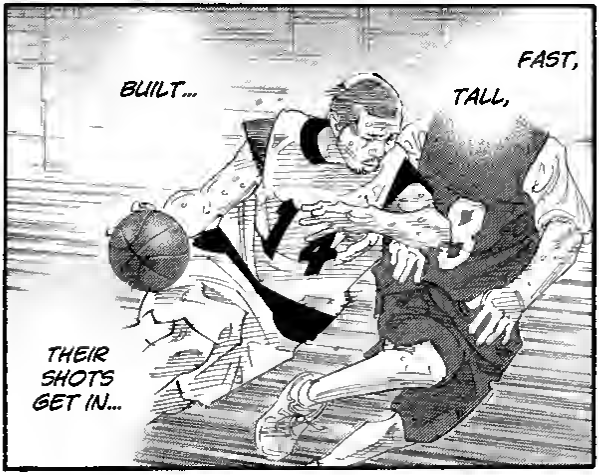
4 vs. 3 offense drill—
If you win on offense, you stay in.
HAH
.....
I KNOW IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS, BUT...
HAH
The more you win, the more chances you get to show what you're made of.

THESE GUYS ARE GOOD...!!

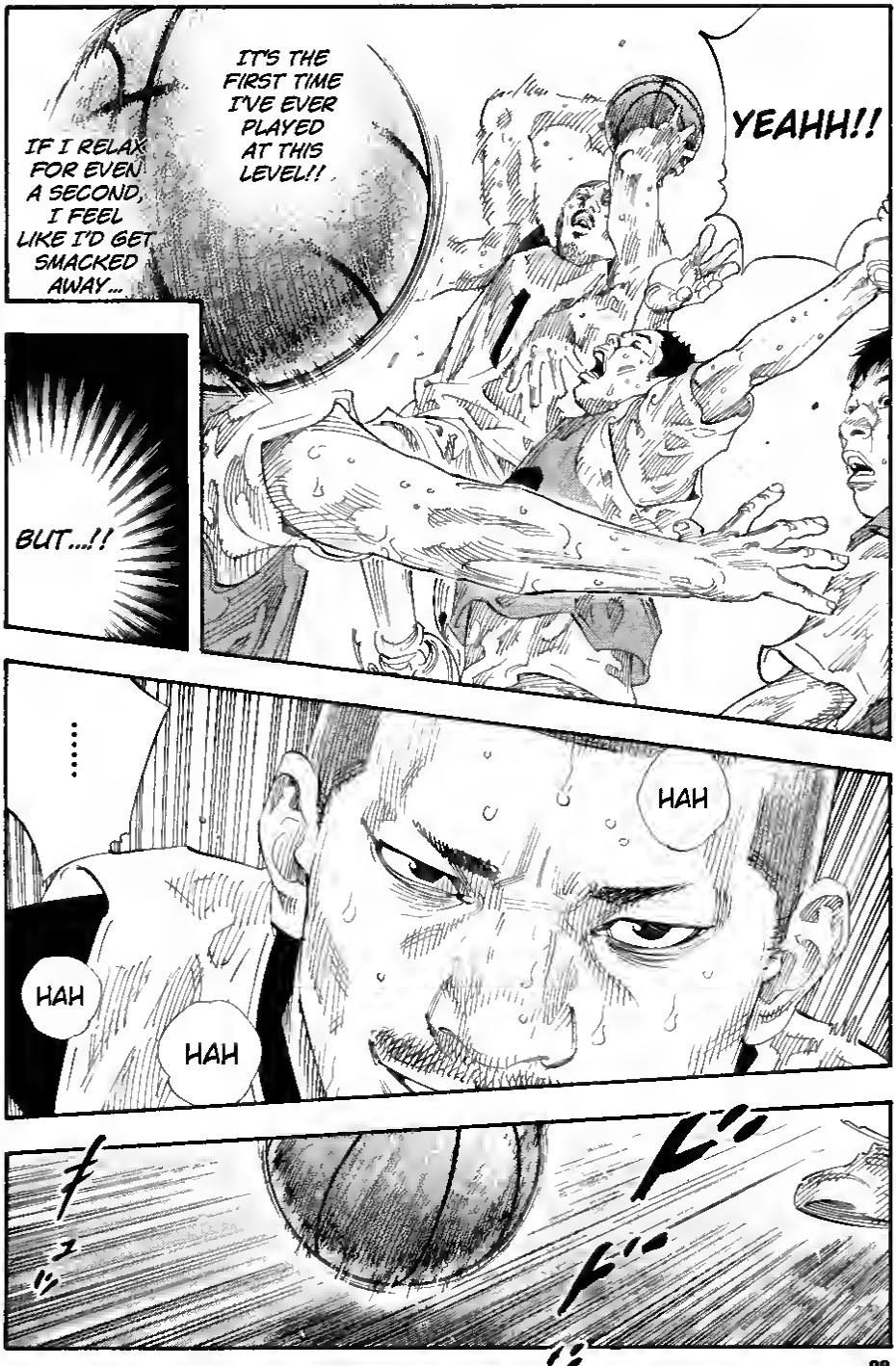

OVER HALF OF THE REMAINING 40% ARE COLLEGE STUDENTS.
AND A LITTLE MORE THAN 10% OF THE REMAINING GUYS... WELL, THEY'RE JUST NOBODIES.
.....



HOW MANY GUYS DO WE HAVE WITH LEAGUE EXPERIENCE?
...ABOUT 60%.


BUILT...
FAST,
TALL,
THEIR SHOTS GET IN...

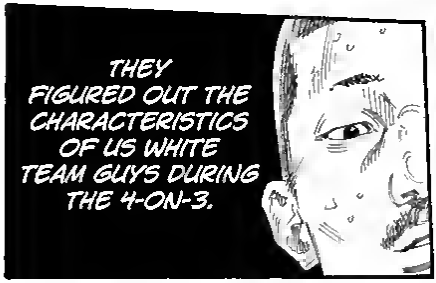
ANY PLAYERS ASIDE FROM THE ONES YOU KNOW THAT STAND OUT...?
HMMM... I HOPE I CAN FIND SOME.


IF I RELAX FOR EVEN A SECOND, I FEEL LIKE I'D GET SMACKED AWAY...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER PLAYED AT THIS LEVEL!!
YEAHH!!
BUT...!!
.....
HAH
HAH
HAH
F'''
F''
F''

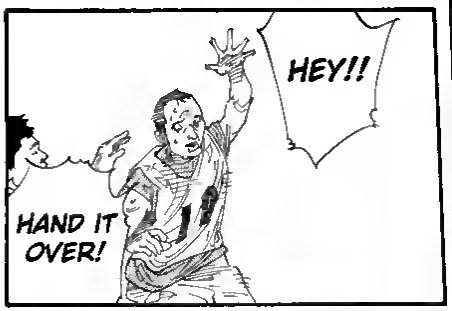
HMPH...
HEY!
YOU'RE MY ENEMY TOO—
12
5

CLASSIC NARUSE.
HE'S FAR PAST HIS PRIME, BUT HE'S STILL TOP-NOTCH!
WHOAA!!
I need to do something, or he'll totally snub me out.
Dammit! I thought Naruse retired!?
ピー
NEXT WILL BE A 5-ON-5 SCRIMMAGE TEST!
BRING IT IN!
!!
WE'LL SQUEEZE IT DOWN TO TEN PEOPLE WITH THIS ONE!

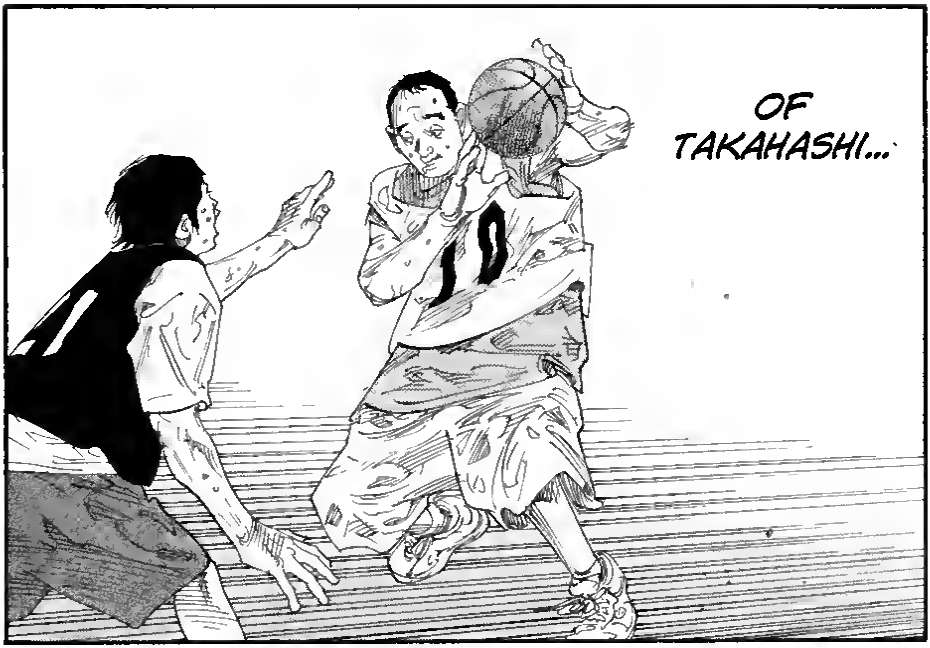
I've gotta find a way to show off this time.
Don't hold me back, dammit!
FIRST OF ALL—
TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING RULES!
THE CLOCK WILL CONTINUE RUNNING THROUGHOUT.
YOU CANNOT FOUL OUT!
BUT FOULED PLAYERS WILL GET ONE FOUL SHOT.
THERE WILL BE NO TIME OUTS!
THAT CONCLUDES THE RULES!


THEY FIGURED OUT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF US WHITE TEAM GUYS DURING THE 4-ON-3.

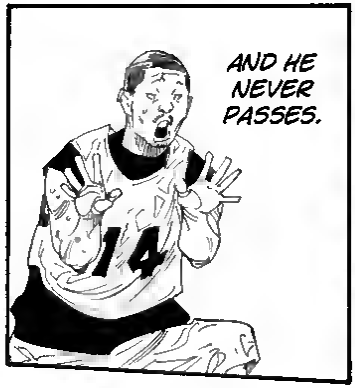
HEY, LET'S GO!
14
13

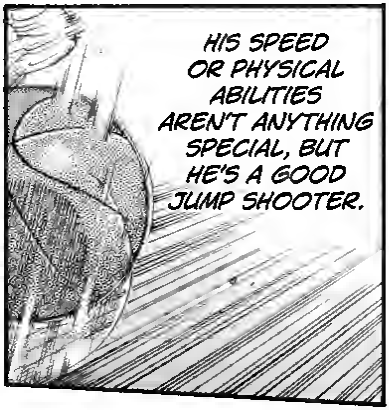

HEY!!
HAND IT OVER!

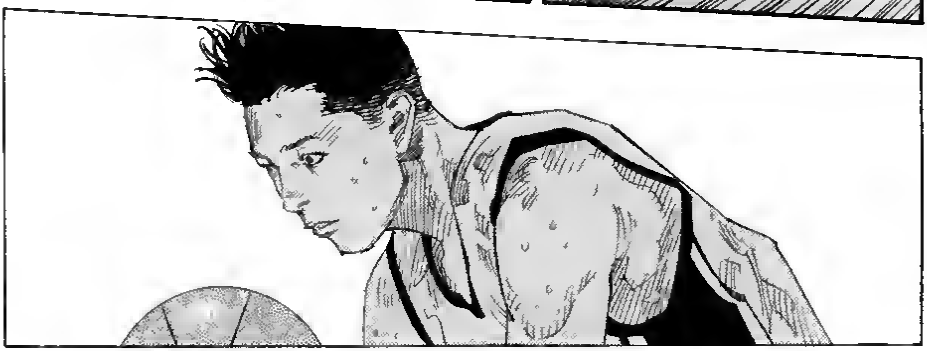
THIS GUY REMINDS ME...
Shut up
.....

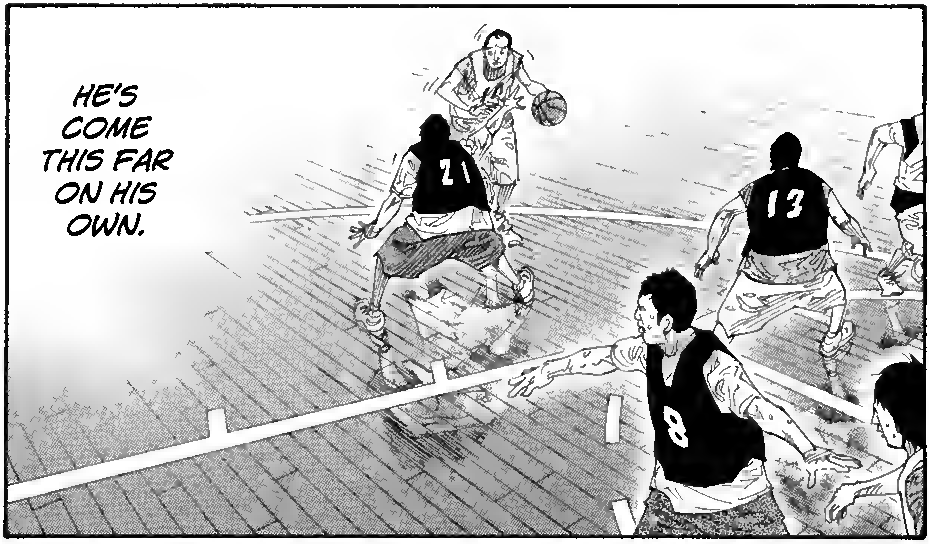

OF TAKAHASHI...

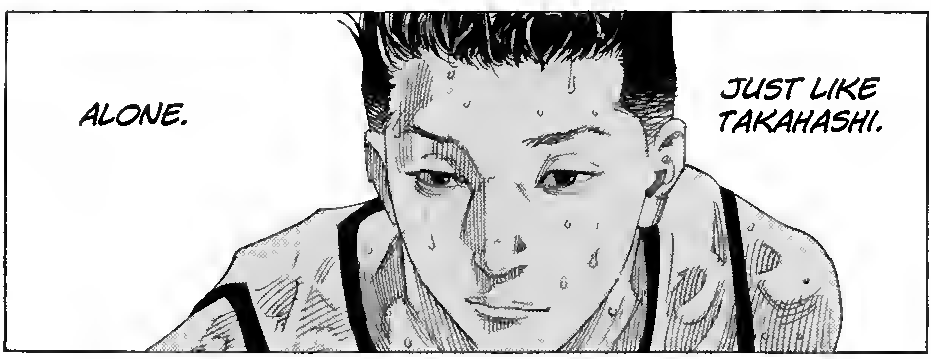
WELL, WHATEVER. I'LL JUST LET HIM SHOOT.

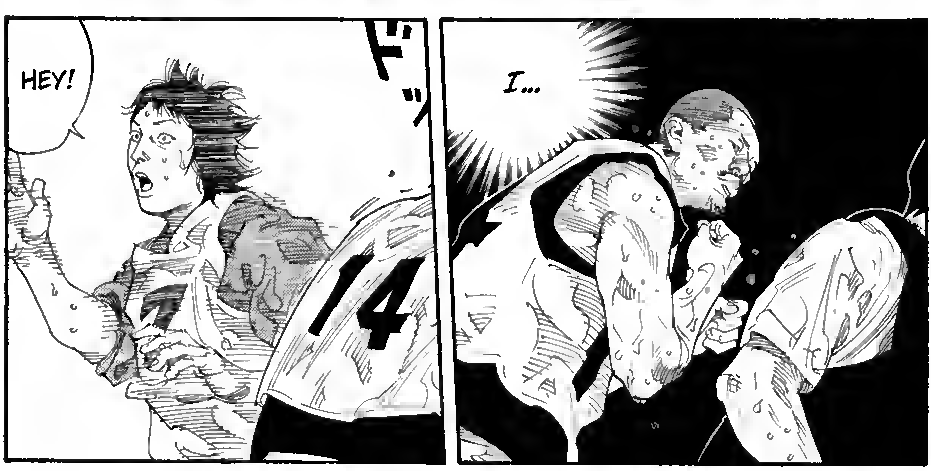

AND HE NEVER PASSES.


HIS SPEED OR PHYSICAL ABILITIES AREN'T ANYTHING SPECIAL, BUT HE'S A GOOD JUMP SHOOTER.



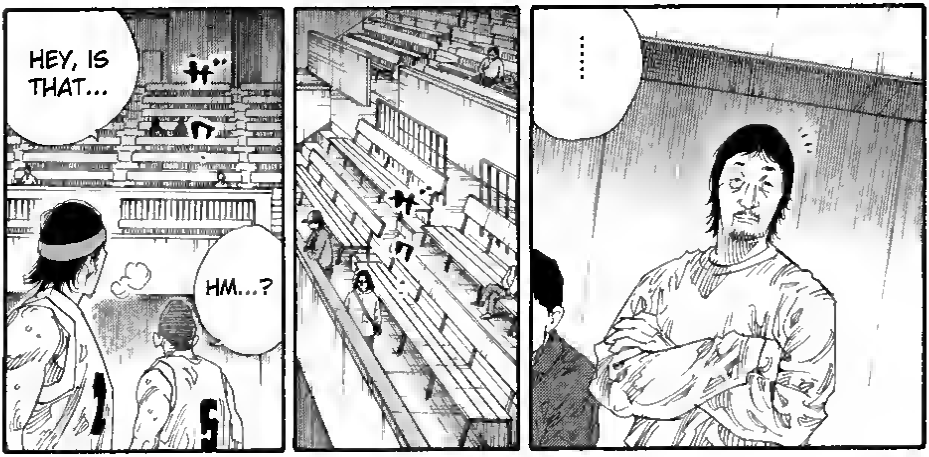

HE'S COME THIS FAR ON HIS OWN.
21
13
8


ALONE.
JUST LIKE TAKAHASHI.


HEY!
14
I...

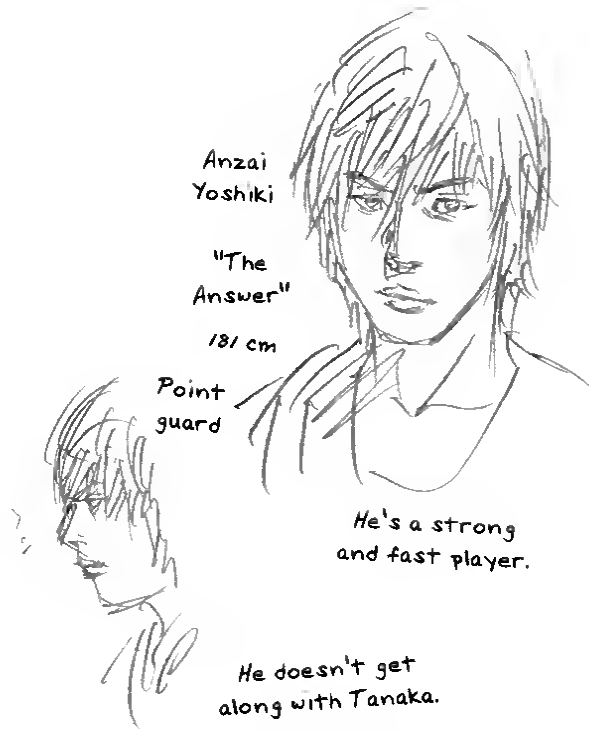
FREE!
オイオーイ
SHEESH...
THIS TIME ALL FIVE OF US HAVE GOTTA STEP UP.
ピッ
BLACK'S BALL!!

THAT'S THE KIND OF POINT GUARD I WANNA BE.
14


HEY, IS THAT...
HM...?
.....

TOKYO LIGHTNINGS
THE LIGHTNINGS!
ANZAI'S THERE TOO.

TOKYO
……!!


Anzai
Yoshiki
"The
Answer"
181 cm
Point
guard
He's a strong
and fast player.
He doesn't get
along with Tanaka.

# 64th.

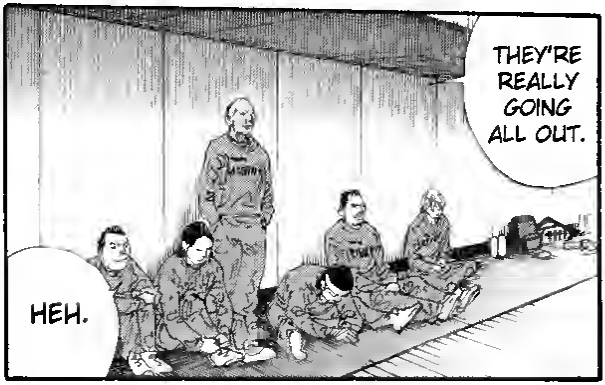
COME ON, THAT'S IT!
DO YOUR BEST!!
THIS SCRIMMAGE WILL DECIDE THE LAST TEN REMAINING PLAYERS!!

!!
.....
.....
TEN PLAYERS—!!

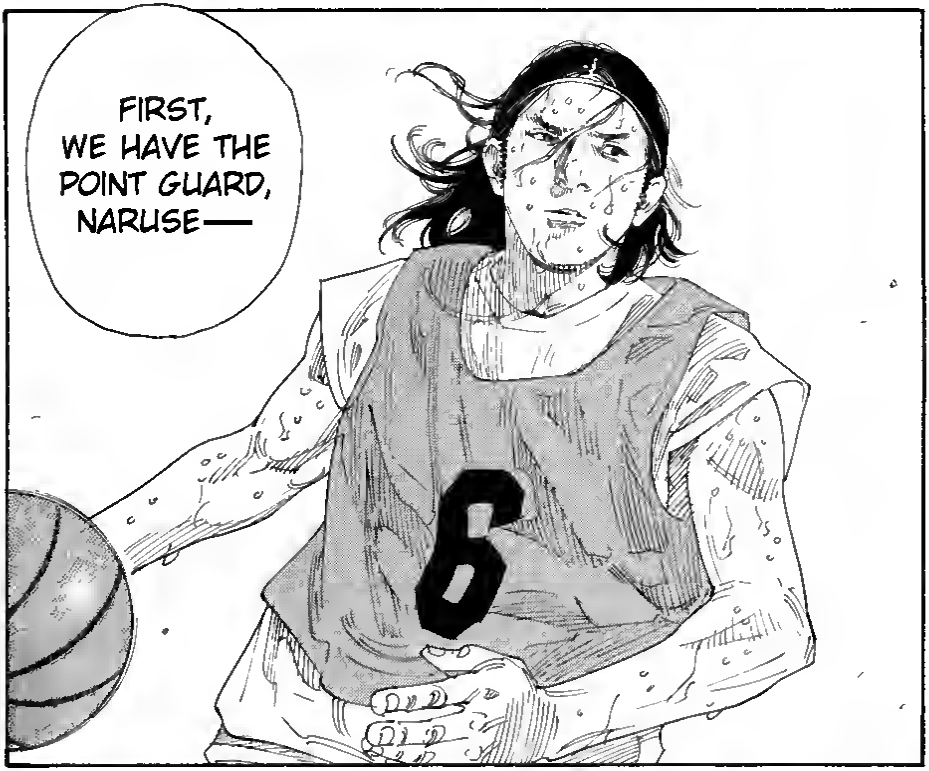
SCREEEECH!
WHOAAAAA!

No
OFFENSE!

WELL?
GOT YOUR TEN?


THEY'RE REALLY GOING ALL OUT.
HEH.

ALL THE GUYS OUT THERE LOOK PRETTY GOOD THIS TIME
ME TOO.
PRETTY MUCH.
YEP.


FIRST, WE HAVE THE POINT GUARD, NARUSE—
6

BUT HE'S GOT CHARM.
HE DOESN'T HAVE THE SHARPNESS HE DID IN HIS GOLDEN DAYS,

WE'LL NEED TO CHECK UP ON THE CONDITION OF HIS KNEE—
BUT AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, HE'D BE A PERFECT BACK-UP FOR ANZAI.

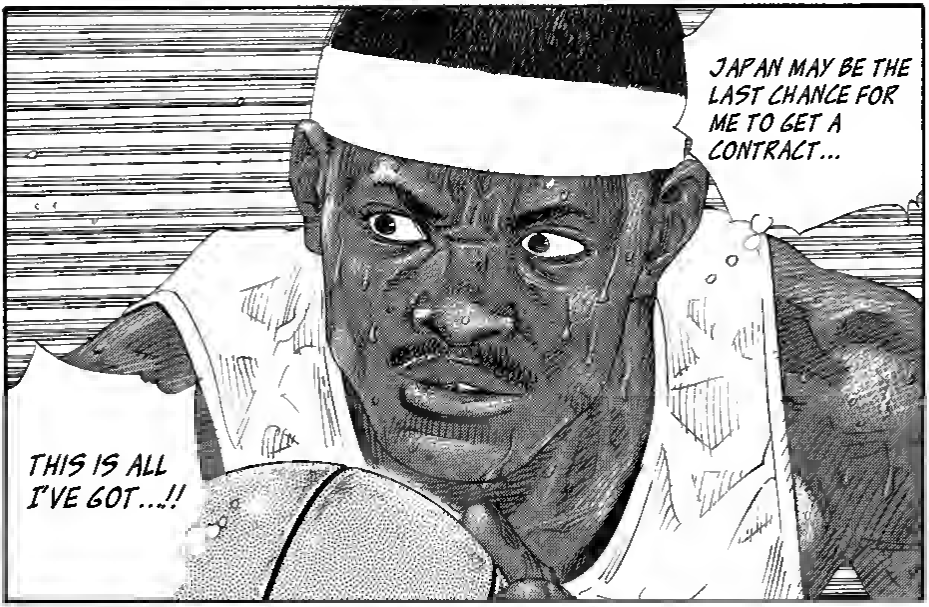
...I COULDN'T FOLLOW IT!
SWISH
AND THEY SAY HE'S PAST HIS PRIME... JUST HOW FUCKING GOOD **WAS** THIS GUY!?
WATCHING SOMEONE AND BEING MATCHED UP AGAINST THEM ARE TWO TOTALLY DIFFERENT THINGS!
RIGHT NOW, I'M
THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PRO.

6
14
STANDING IN A TOTALLY NEW ZONE—

ゴ"
!!
!!
GET SERI-OUS!!
You asshole!
GOD DAMMIT!
HAH HAH!
THIS SPOT'S ALL SLIPPERY WITH SWEAT!
PFFT!

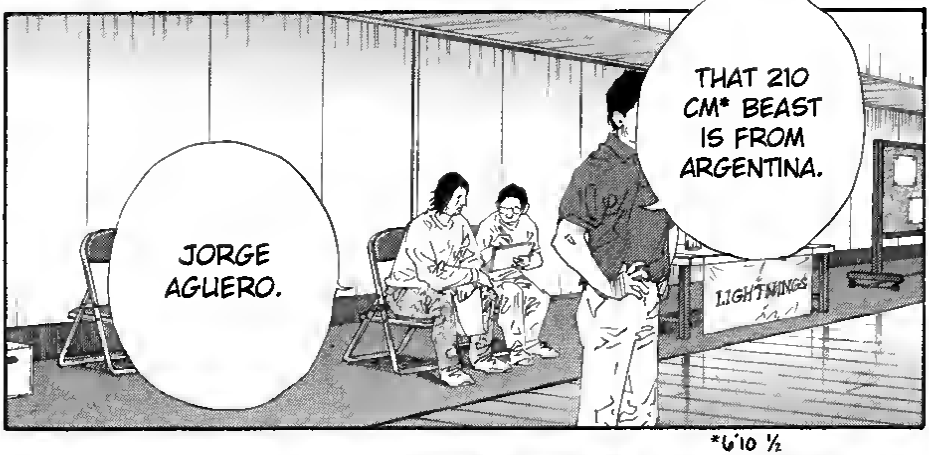
SECOND—
WILL BE THE EX-NBA POWER FORWARD, J.J. WATSON.
HE ONLY HAD TWO TEN-DAY CONTRACTS,
AND THEN STARTED TRAVELING AROUND EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA, AND ASIA—
HOW OLD IS HE?
UMMM... 34.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE HIM, TANAKA-SAN.
HE DOESN'T REALLY HAVE ANY SCORING ABILITY, BUT HE'S MORE THE TYPE TO TAKE ON ALL THE DIRTY JOBS WITH LITTLE TROUBLE.

!!!
WHOAA!!
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THAT GARBAGE SHOOTING OF HIS WILL GET ANY BETTER, THEN.
...
BUT HE'S GOT SOME POWER!
!! YEAH

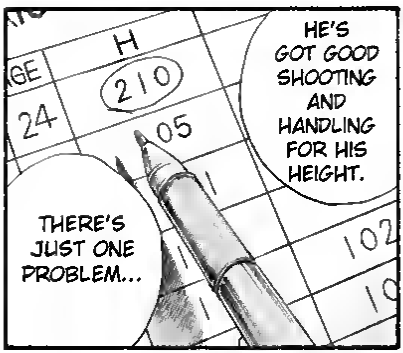

JAPAN MAY BE THE LAST CHANCE FOR ME TO GET A CONTRACT...
THIS IS ALL I'VE GOT...!!

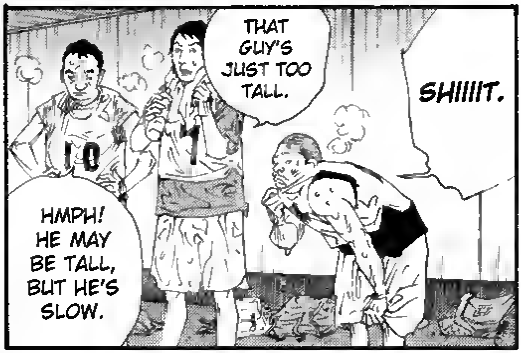
!!
WHOAA!!
LOOK HOW HIGH HE IS!!

.....!!
!!

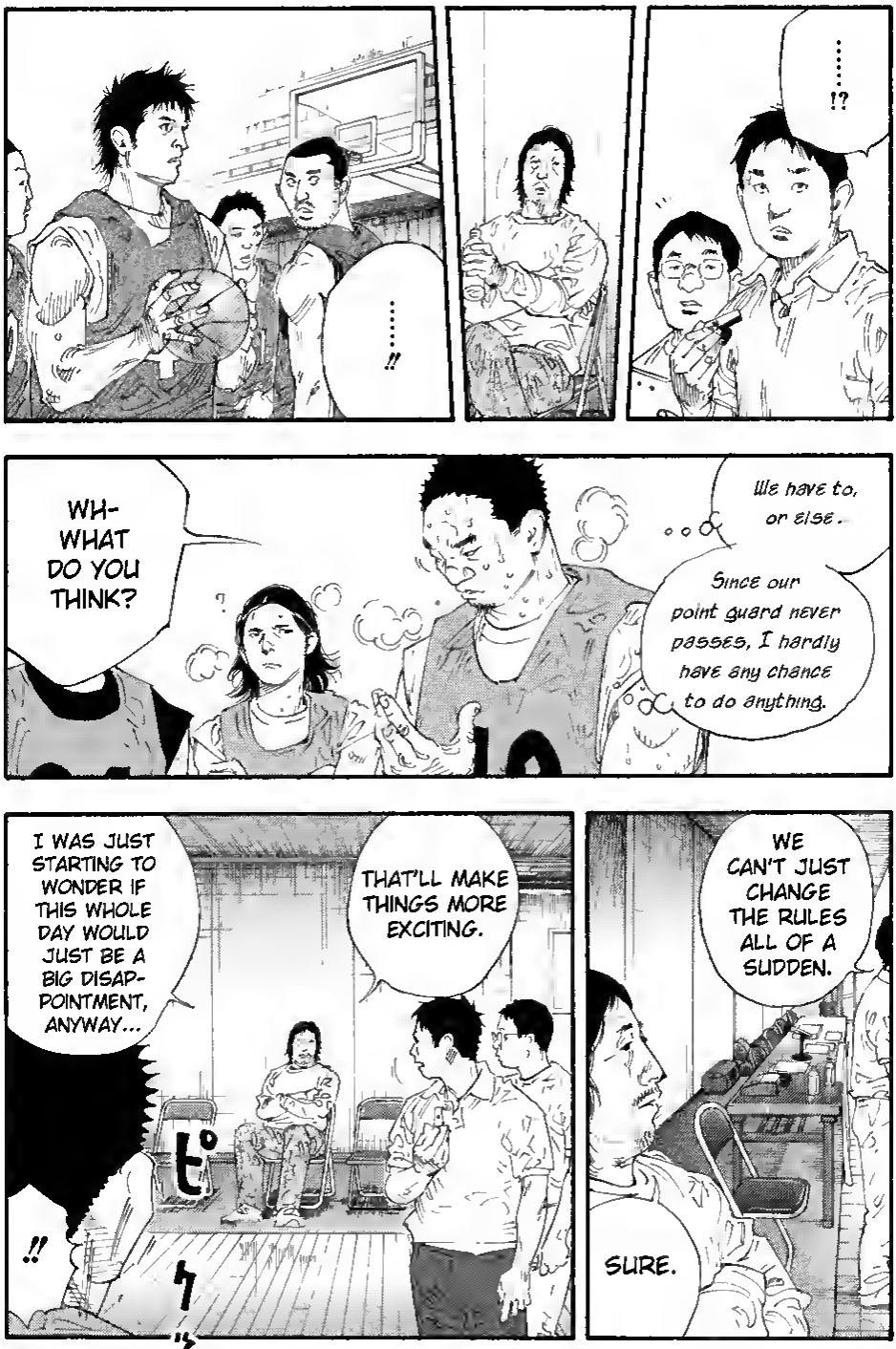

JORGE AGUERO.
THAT 210 CM* BEAST IS FROM ARGENTINA.
LIGHTNINGS

*6'10 ½


H
210
24
05
HE'S GOT GOOD SHOOTING AND HANDLING FOR HIS HEIGHT.
THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM...


THAT GUY'S JUST TOO TALL.
SHIIIIT.
HMPH! HE MAY BE TALL, BUT HE'S SLOW.

ピー!
NEXT,
E AND F...
I HAVE A REQUEST.
THERE'RE RUMORS THAT HE'S EVEN BEEN ARRESTED BEFORE.
Who knows
……
HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO BEHAVE.
ドス
ドス
……
?
CAN WE MAKE THIS PART TOURNAMENT STYLE TOO!?
THAT WAY THE ONES WHO WIN CAN STILL HAVE MORE CHANCES TO SHOW WHAT THEY'VE GOT——


……!?
……!!
WH-WHAT DO YOU THINK?
We have to, or else.
Since our point guard never passes, I hardly have any chance to do anything.
I WAS JUST STARTING TO WONDER IF THIS WHOLE DAY WOULD JUST BE A BIG DISAP-POINTMENT, ANYWAY...
THAT'LL MAKE THINGS MORE EXCITING.
ピ
!!
WE CAN'T JUST CHANGE THE RULES ALL OF A SUDDEN.
SURE.

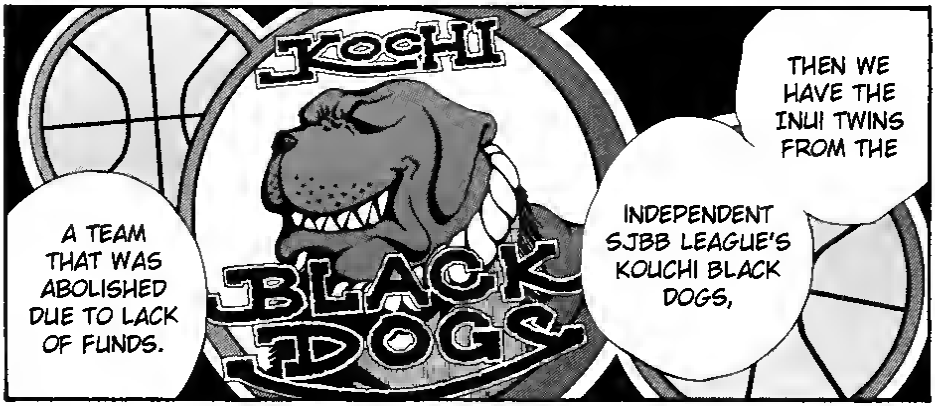
8
!!
두로오
*Korean for Doruah, yelling basically.
NO, I KNOW WHO KIM IS.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE GUY WITH THE DREADS.
WHO'S THAT?
KIM CHAN HO— HE'S PLAYED IN THE KBA FOR FIVE YEARS.

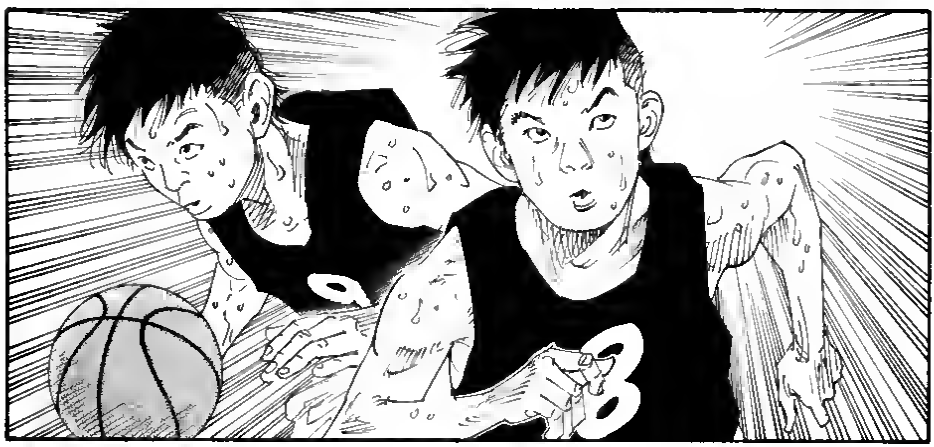
YEAHHHH!!
!!
18
*Not yet!
아직도
A WHOLE NEW ZONE...

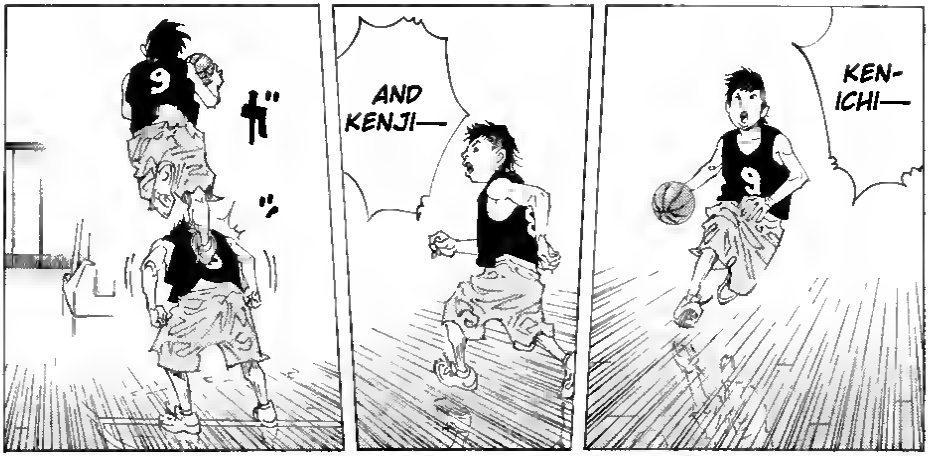
PPHHH!
!!
WHOA!
HE'S GOT SOME GUTS.
HE MUST, TO BE ABLE TO HOLD HIS OWN ON THE INSIDE WITH KIM.
SAKA-MOTO HIDE-KICHI.
HE GREW UP IN CHICAGO.
HE COMES FROM THE STREET.

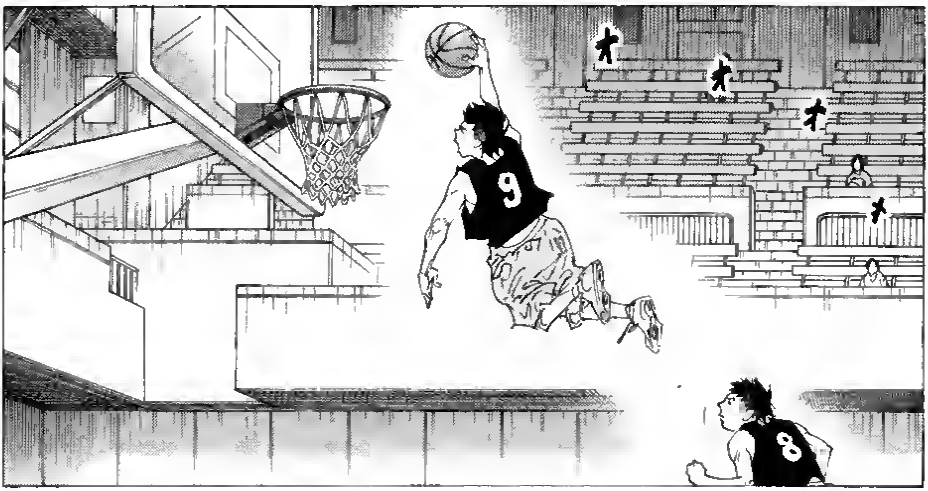
더러워
HMPH!
ビッ

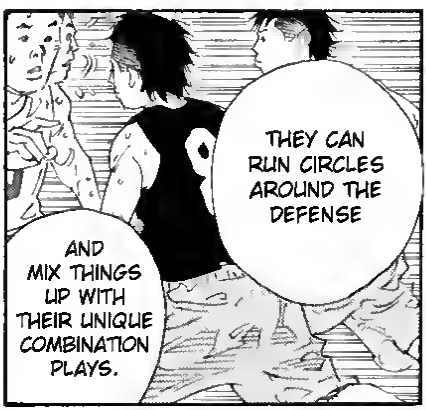
*Dirty


KOCHI
BLACK DOGS
A TEAM THAT WAS ABOLISHED DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS.
INDEPENDENT SJBB LEAGUE'S KOUCHI BLACK DOGS,
THEN WE HAVE THE INUI TWINS FROM THE

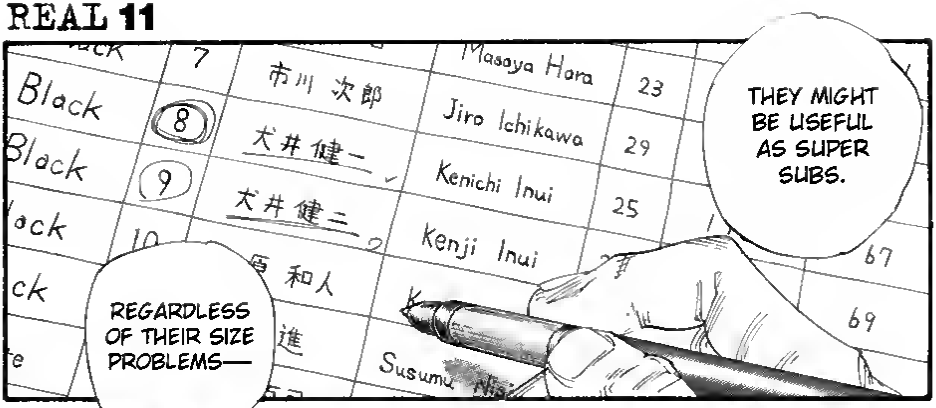



AND KENJI—
KEN-ICHI—

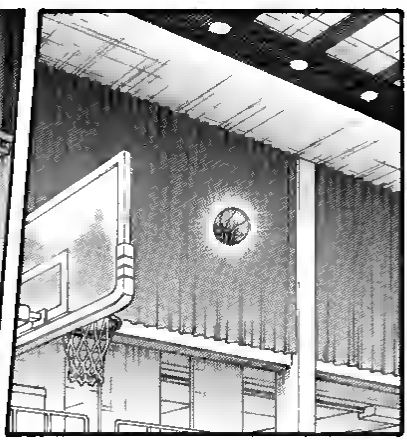


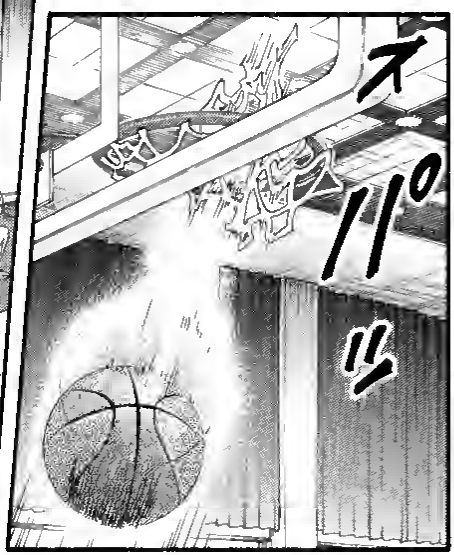

THEY CAN RUN CIRCLES AROUND THE DEFENSE
AND MIX THINGS UP WITH THEIR UNIQUE COMBINATION PLAYS.

NO, THEY SAID THEY COULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
DID YOU ASK THEM?
SORRY


Black
Black
Black
7
8
9
市川 次郎
犬井健一
犬井健二
Masaya Hara
Jiro Ichikawa
Kenichi Inui
Kenji Inui
23
29
25
67
69
Susumu
THEY MIGHT BE USEFUL AS SUPER SUBS.
REGARDLESS OF THEIR SIZE PROBLEMS—

……!!
22
UKITA KAZUYA.
A LEFTY SHOOTER.

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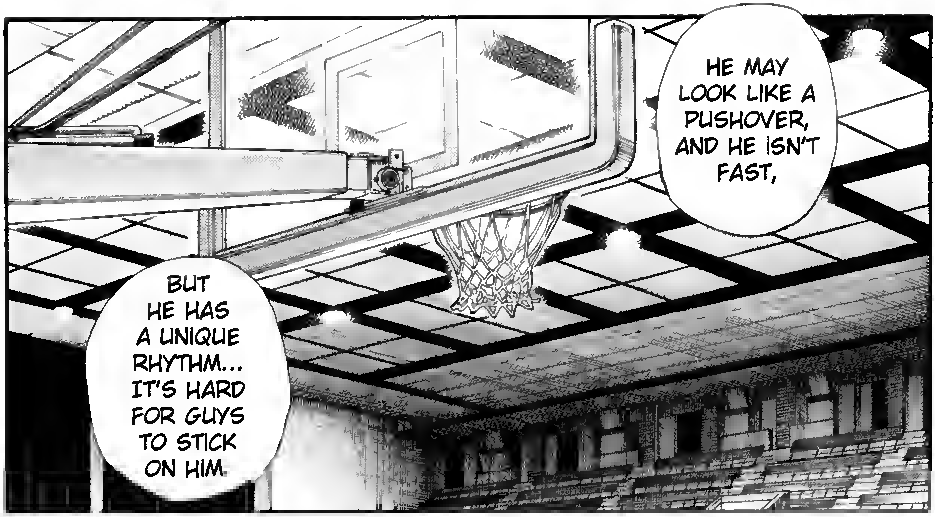
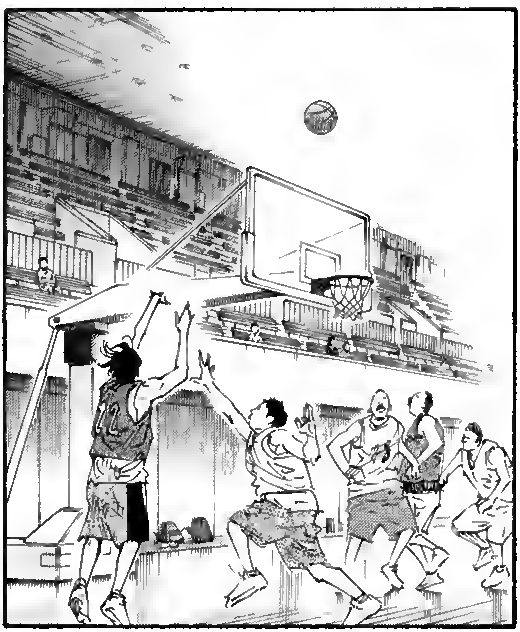
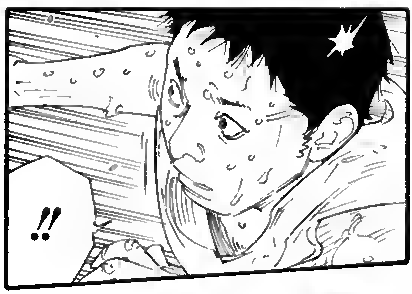
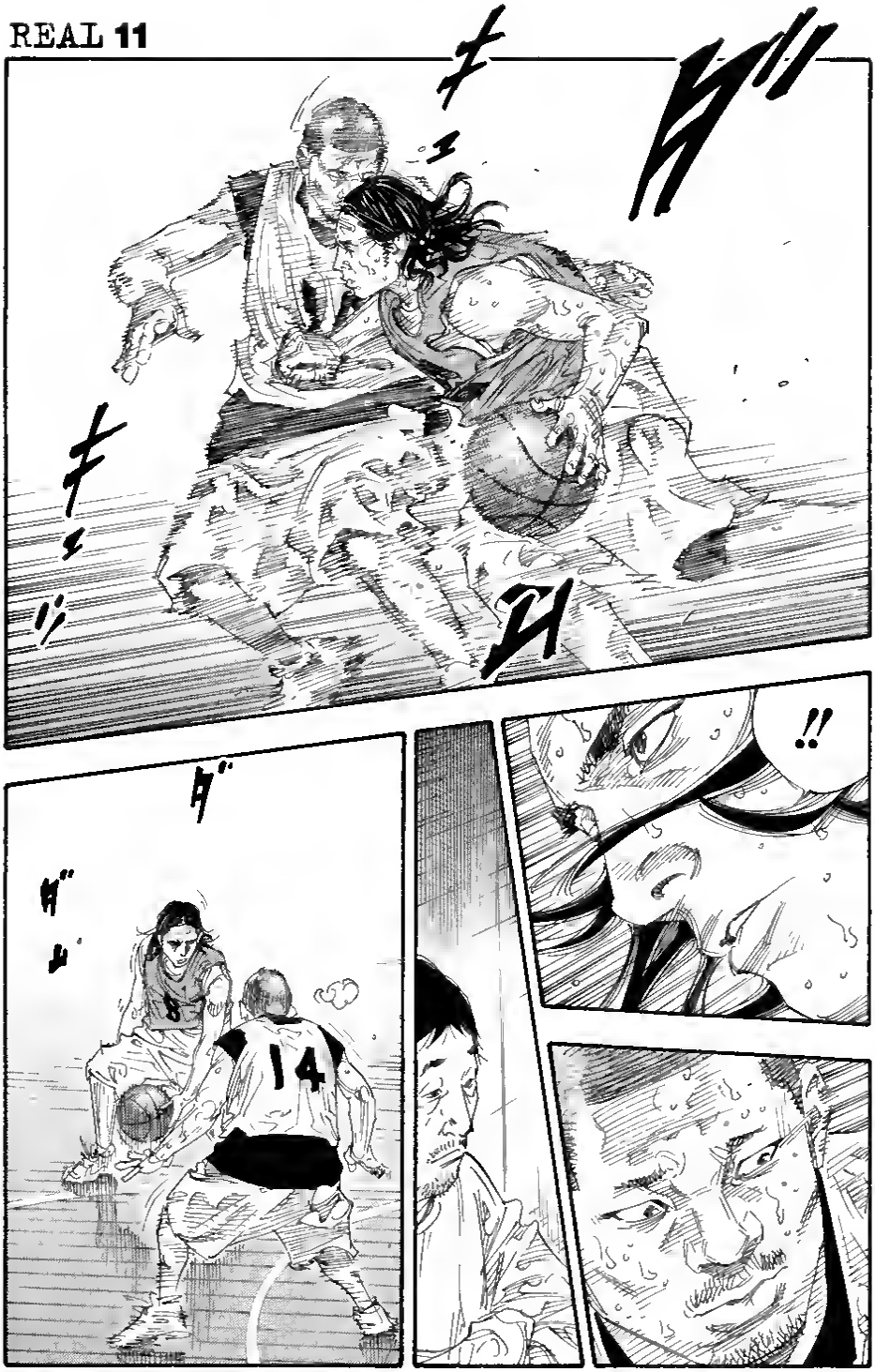

HE MAY LOOK LIKE A PUSHOVER, AND HE ISN'T FAST,
BUT HE HAS A UNIQUE RHYTHM... IT'S HARD FOR GUYS TO STICK ON HIM.



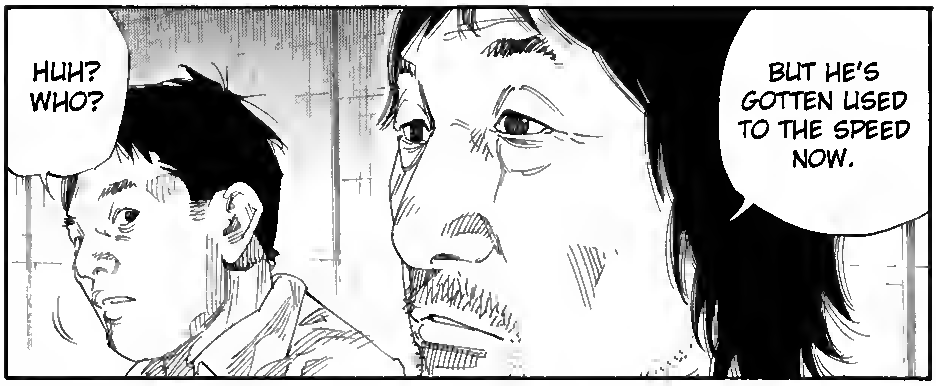

!!

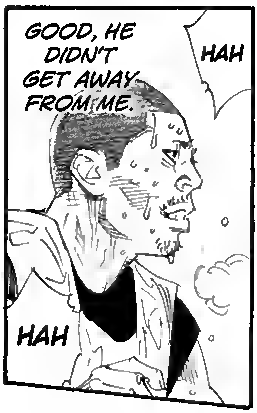
THEY'RE THE SAME TYPE.
HOW COME?
YEAH.
I WON'T LOSE TO THAT GUY...
LET'S GO.
YEAHHH!
LET'S GO!

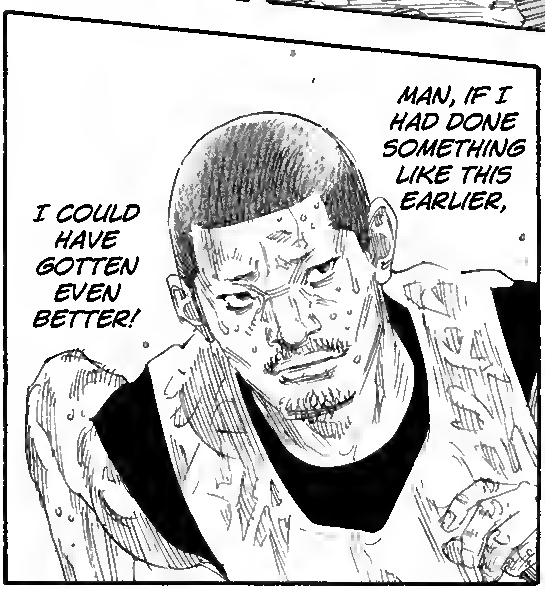
HE'S GOT ENERGY.
ALRIGHT, GUYS!!
YEAH!
HOO... LET'S GO.
DON'T BE AFRAID.


!!
8
14

!
THAT SKINHEAD
STARTED OFF LIKE SHIT,


HUH? WHO?
BUT HE'S GOTTEN USED TO THE SPEED NOW.

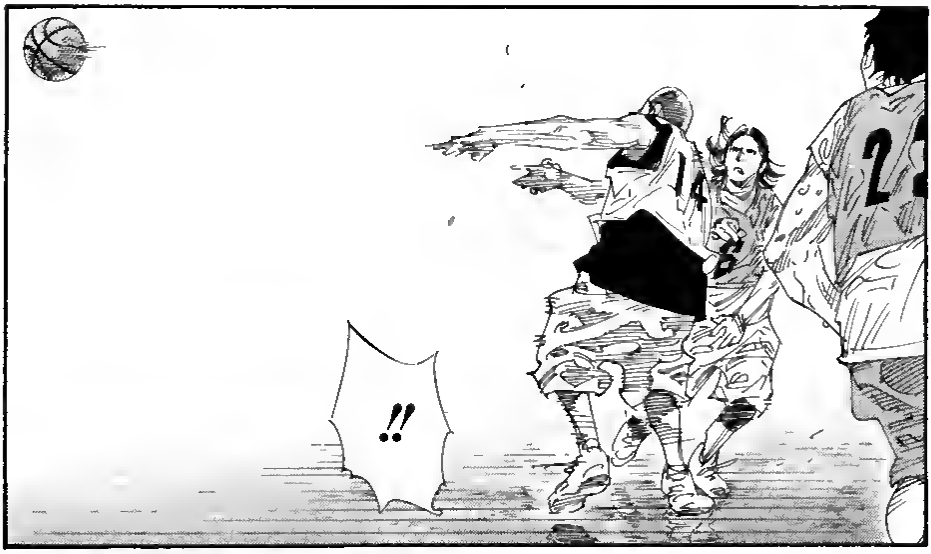

GOOD, HE DIDN'T GET AWAY FROM ME.
HAH
HAH


MAN, IF I HAD DONE SOMETHING LIKE THIS EARLIER,
I COULD HAVE GOTTEN EVEN BETTER!

I'VE LEARNED THAT HE'S MOST DANGEROUS WHEN HE STARTS DRIBBLING.
IF I CAN JUST GET PAST THAT POINT...!!

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THIS COURT.
.....
NICE CUT, HIDESHI!
WHOAA!
!!

WHOAA!!
SECRETLY,
I'VE GOT CONFIDENCE IN MY DRIBBLING.
TAKE IT UP THERE, ALONE!
OF-FENSE!
LOOK, HE GOT STOPPED.
Not like we're gonna win this


!!

7
!
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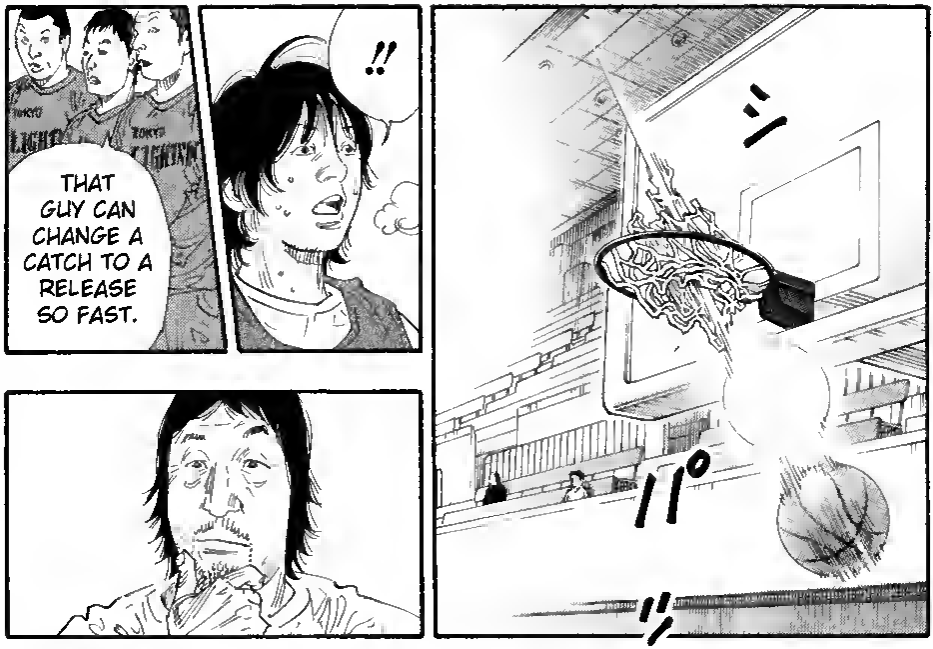
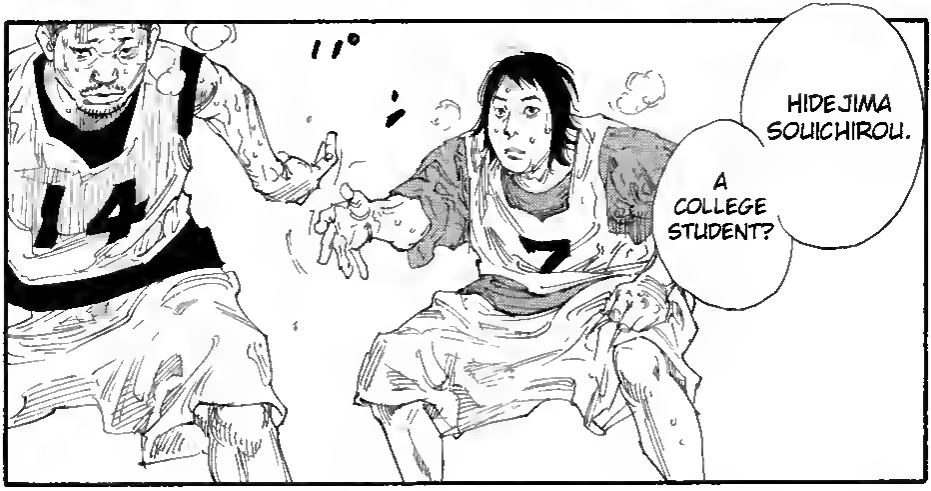
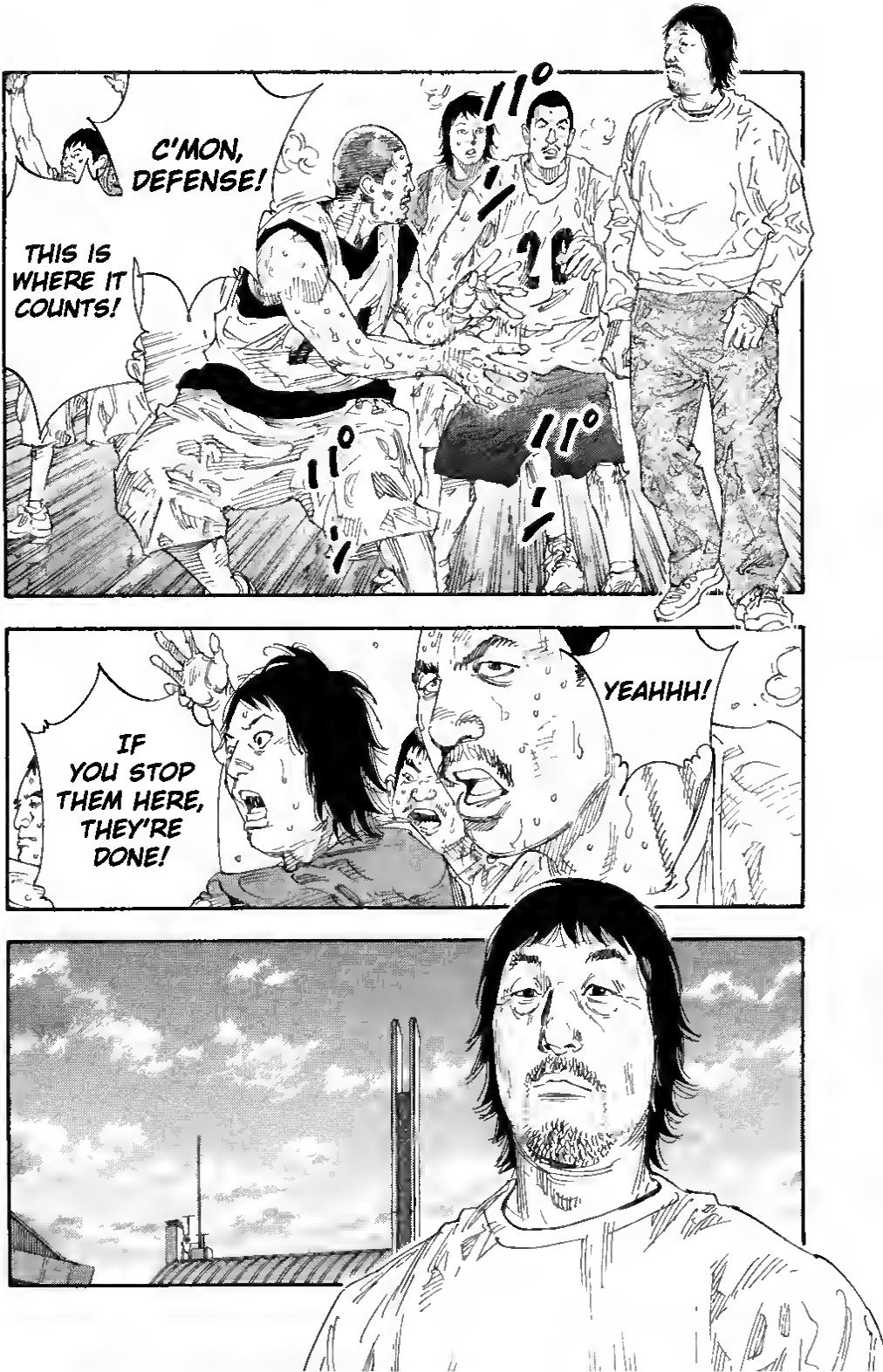
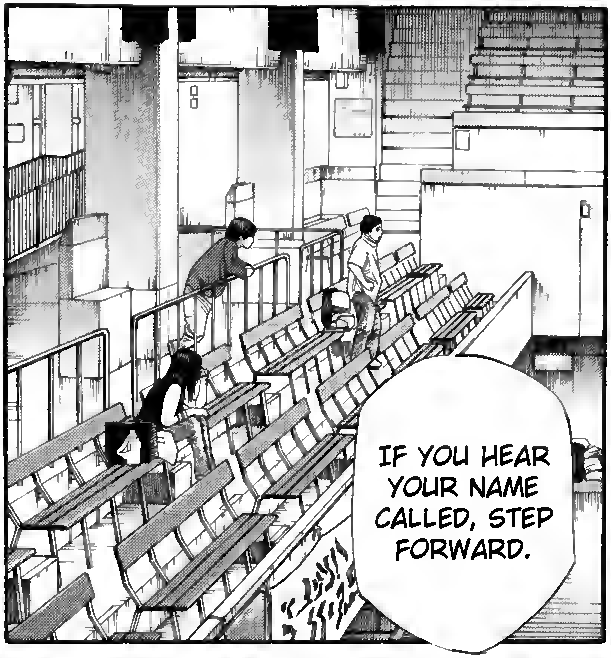

THAT GUY CAN CHANGE A CATCH TO A RELEASE SO FAST.
!!
11°
11°

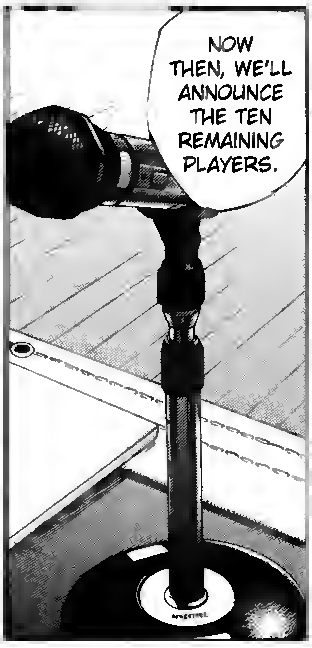

HIDEJIMA SOUICHIROU.
A COLLEGE STUDENT?

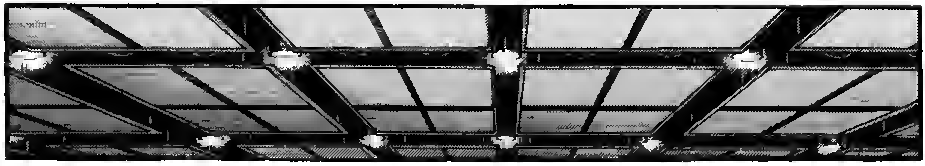
27
18
!!
12
日村一樹
野宮朋美
吉田
Here's another guy whose cute name doesn't match his face How old is he ?
Nomiya... Tomomi?
The #14 guard is...


C'MON, DEFENSE!
THIS IS WHERE IT COUNTS!
YEAHHH!
IF YOU STOP THEM HERE, THEY'RE DONE!

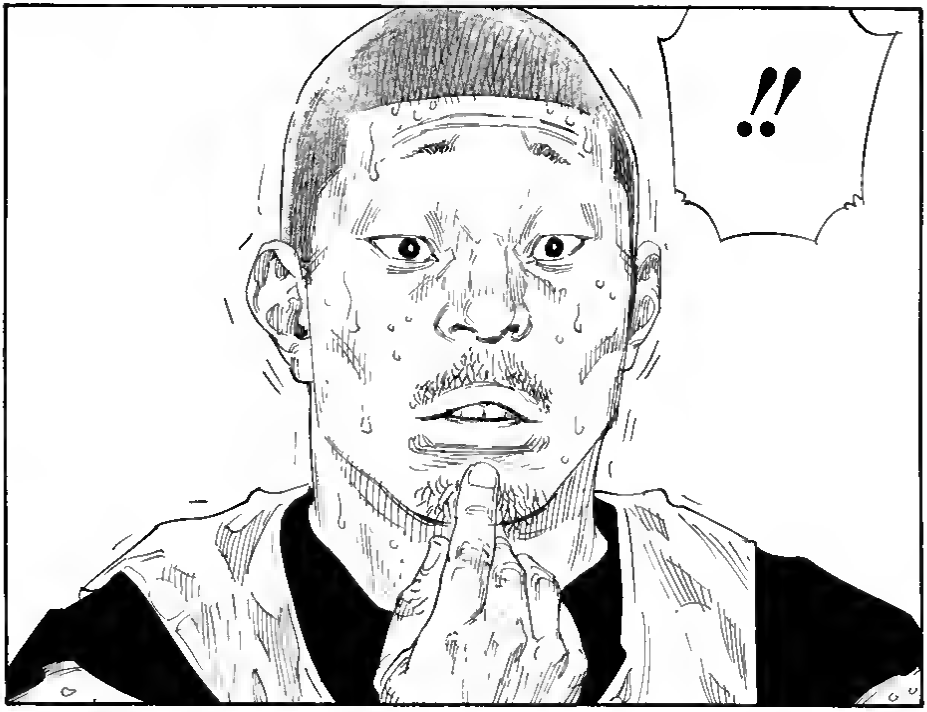
DABA


IF YOU HEAR YOUR NAME CALLED, STEP FORWARD.

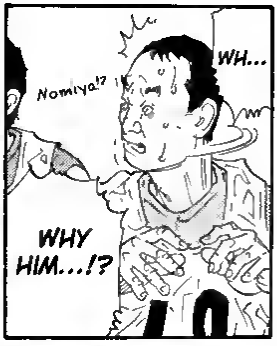

NOW THEN, WE'LL ANNOUNCE THE TEN REMAINING PLAYERS.



NOMIYA TOMOMI.
THAT MAKES TEN.

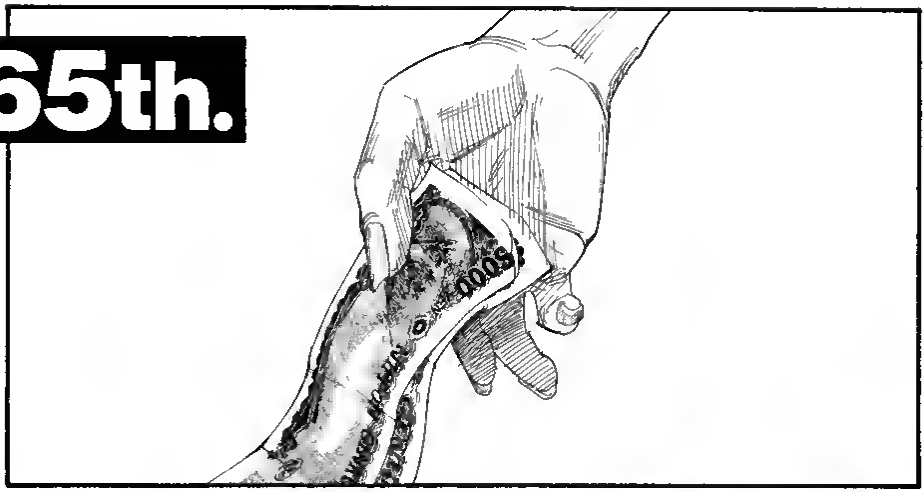

!!

AFTER A TEN-MINUTE BREAK, WE WILL PROCEED WITH THE FINAL TEST USING THESE TEN PLAYERS!!


Nomiya!?
WH...
WHY HIM...!?

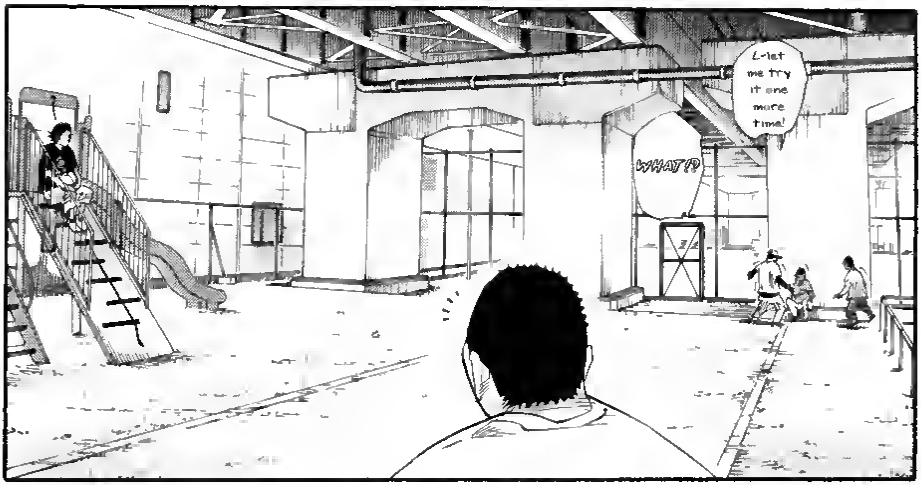
OKAY THEN.

# 65th.



ゴォ
ゴォ
ゴォ
ゴォ
Maribeno
消火栓
中村歯科
SAY YEAH

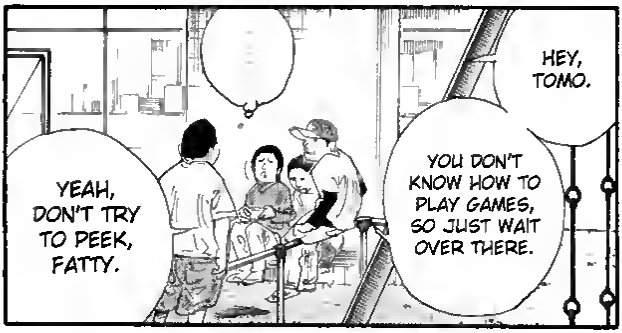
¥9800
Yeaaah!
Awe-some!
YEAH


L-let me try it one more time!
WHAT (?)

?

.....

.....
OH, WAIT.
ACTUALLY, COME HERE, TOMO.


HEY, TOMO.
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY GAMES, SO JUST WAIT OVER THERE.
YEAH, DON'T TRY TO PEEK, FATTY.

YOU GOT SOME MONEY TODAY, DON'T YOU, TOMO?
SHOW US WHAT YOU GOT.
C'MON, DON'T GET ALL SERIOUS LIKE THAT.
LET'S SEE WHAT'S IN YOUR POCKETS.
.....
THE NEW MARIO GAME JUST CAME OUT.
BUT MY MOM SAID SHE'S NOT GONNA BUY ME ANY MORE GAMES.
Yeah!
Take that!
WE JUST WANNA SEE, FATTY!
C'MON, LET GO OF IT!
HMM?

*You want to play Basketball?

*What about a game of two on three? Me and this little kid against you three.

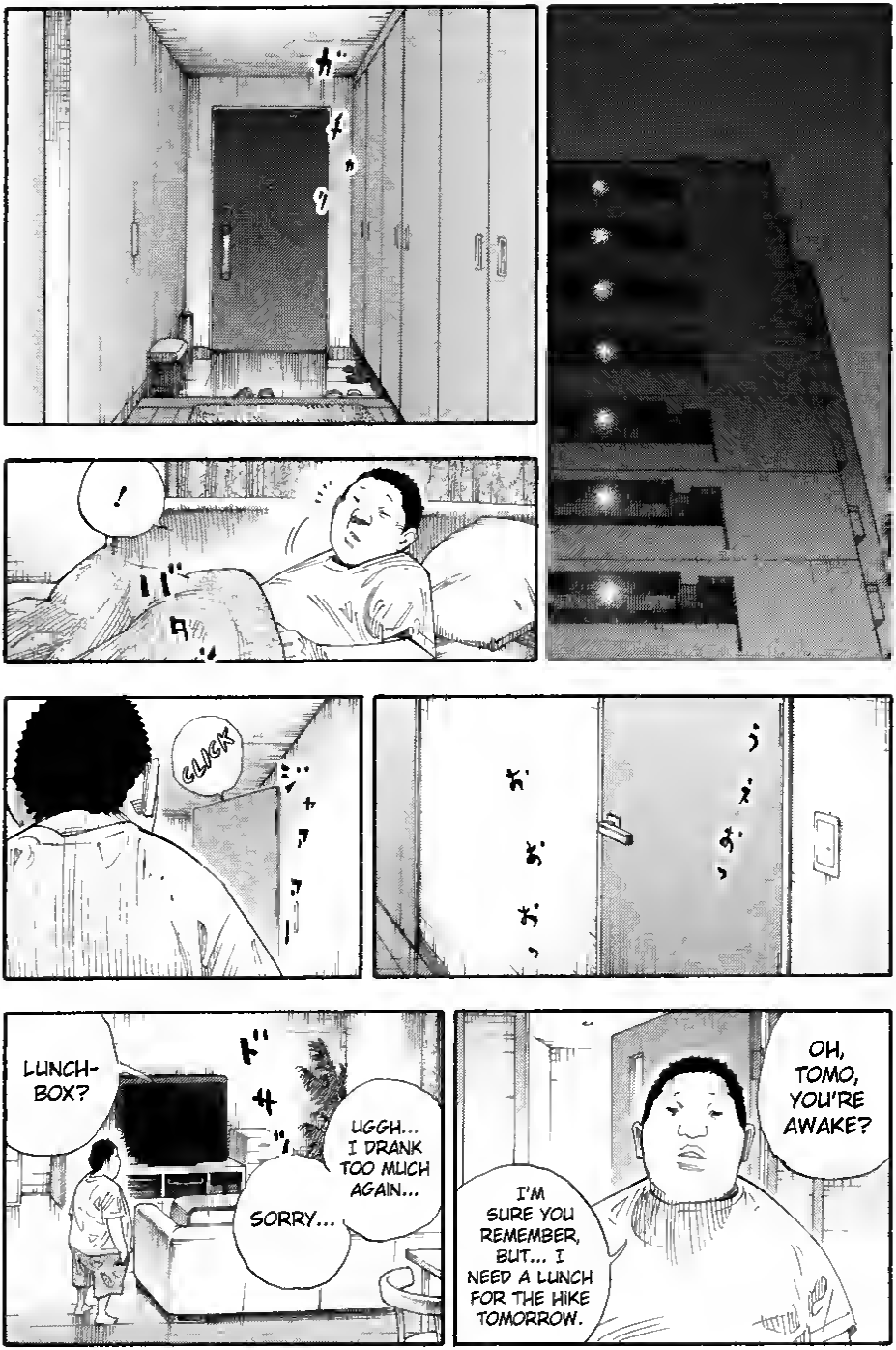
¿ Qué os parece si jugamos dos contra tres ? Jugaremos este chico pequeño y yo contra vosotros tres.
A FOR-EIGNER!
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT!?

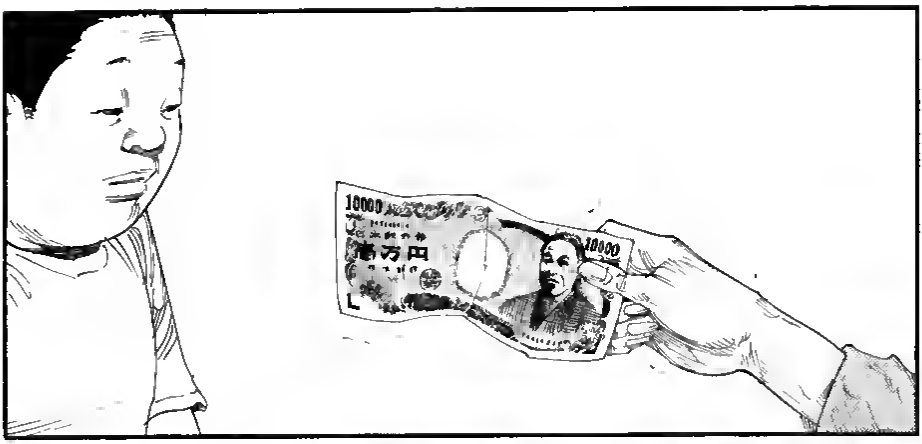
IF YOU BUY IT, WE'LL LET YOU PLAY WITH US!
LET'S ALL PLAY IT TOGETHER, TOMO!
OKAY!?
THANK YOU!

LET ME SEE!
HURRY, OPEN IT UP!
...?
!?
WHOAAA!
HAH
HAH
HAH
HEY, HE'S PRETTY FAST FOR A FATTY!

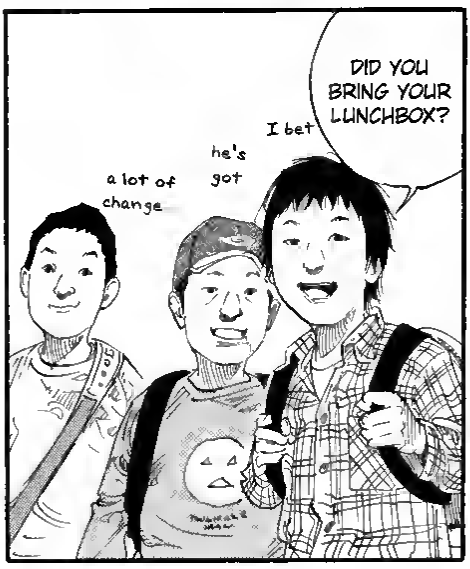
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH

So it'll be us against these three.
You and me are on a team.
That's probably what he was saying


!
CLICK
LUNCH-BOX?
UGGH... I DRANK TOO MUCH AGAIN...
SORRY...
OH, TOMO, YOU'RE AWAKE?
I'M SURE YOU REMEMBER, BUT... I NEED A LUNCH FOR THE HIKE TOMORROW.


10000
10000

FamilyMart


DID YOU BRING YOUR LUNCHBOX?
I bet
he's got
a lot of change

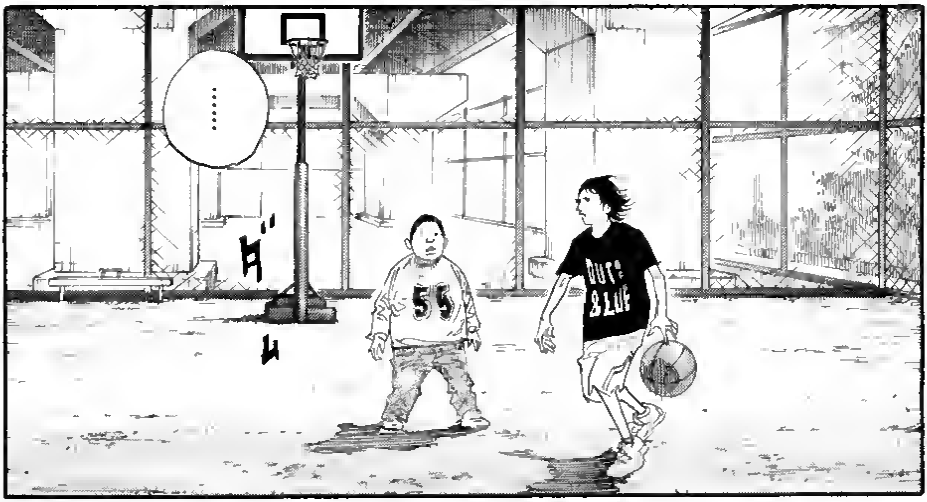
55

TOMOOOO!

.....
HEY TOMO, DID YOU FORGET SOME-THING!?
SENSEI, TOMO'S RUNNING HOME!!
HUH!?
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
55

!!
ガ
ドリブル
……
……

PLEASE
DO NOT LITTER

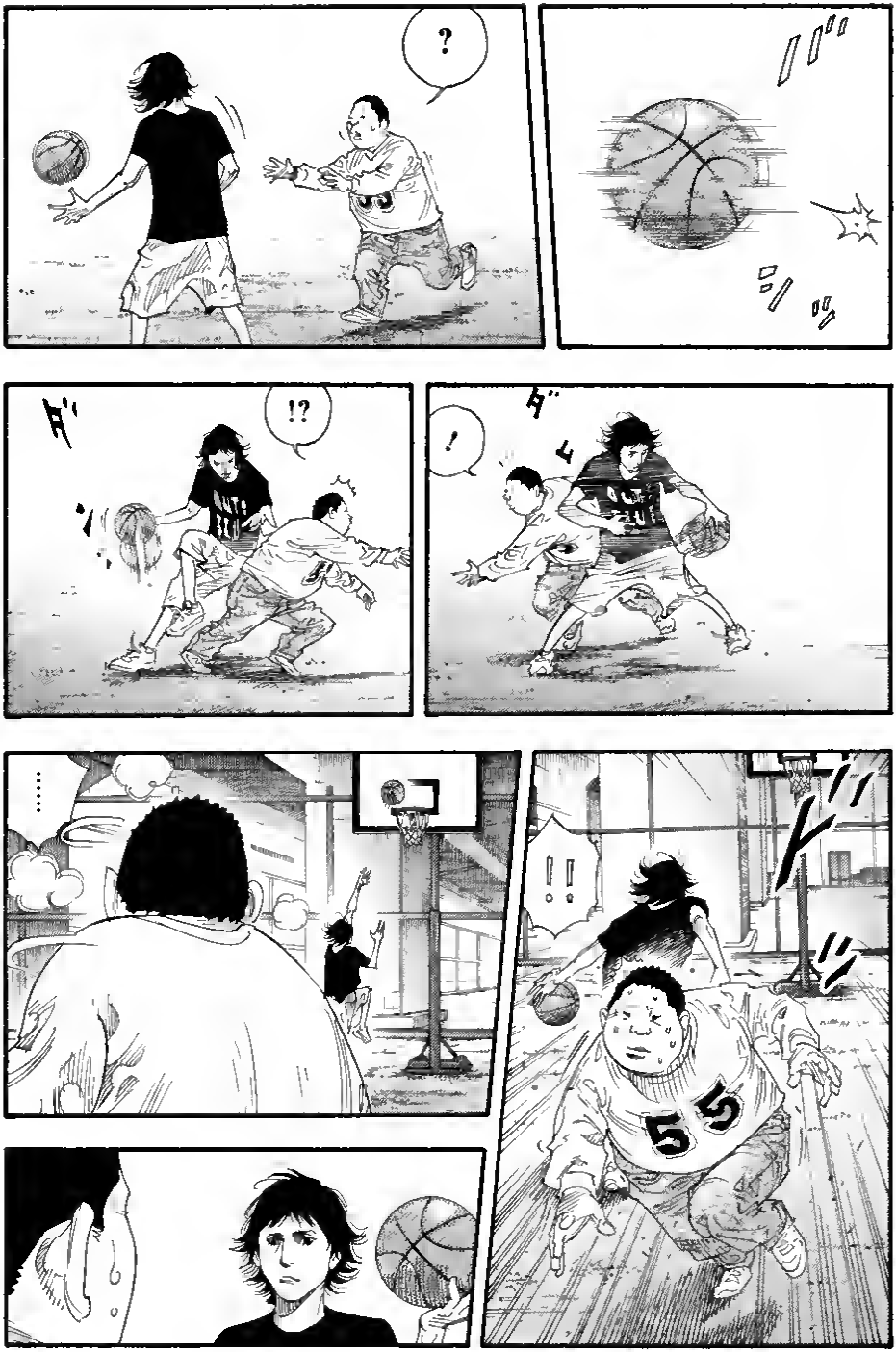

55

1 on 1

?

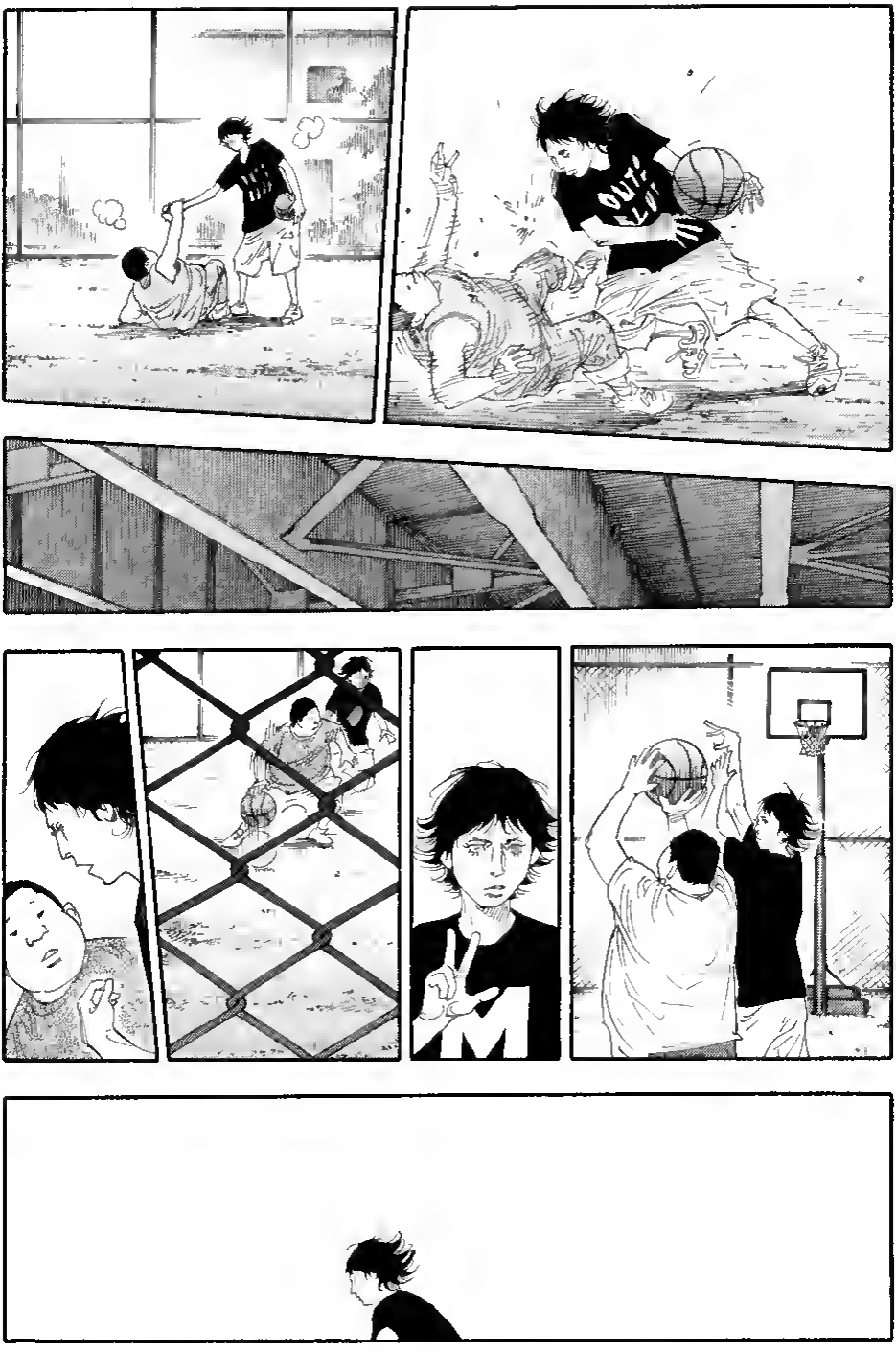
!
OUT
OUT
BLUE

HUH?
HUH?
55

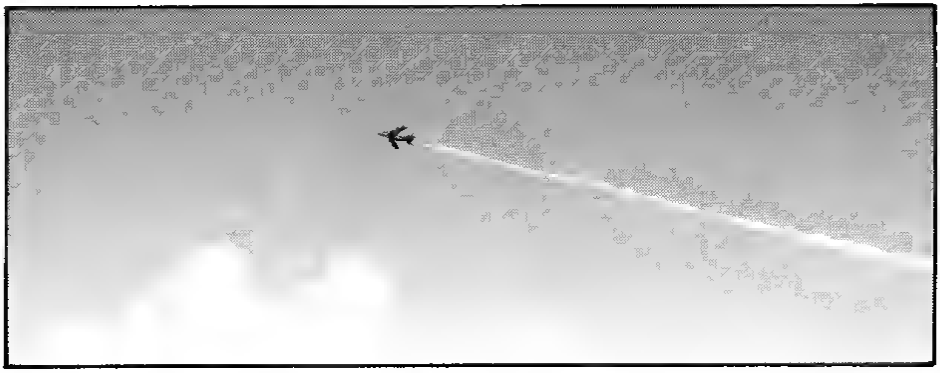

?
!?
!
……
!!
55

NSNP
!!
NAME
YOUR NAME!
HM?
AH... TOMO.
TOMO

HUGO
HUGO
UGO.
UGO?
UGO.
TOMO

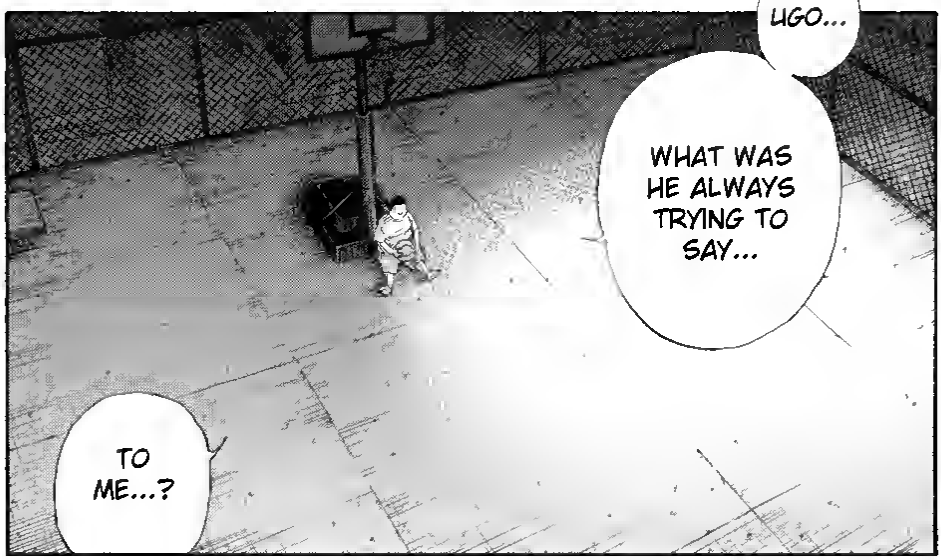


TOMO

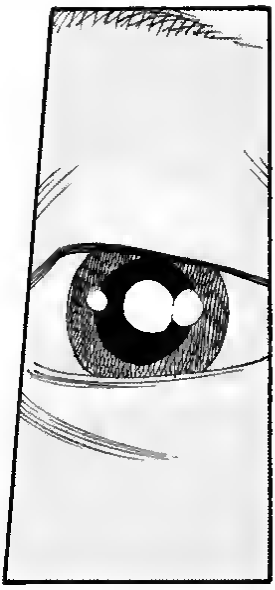


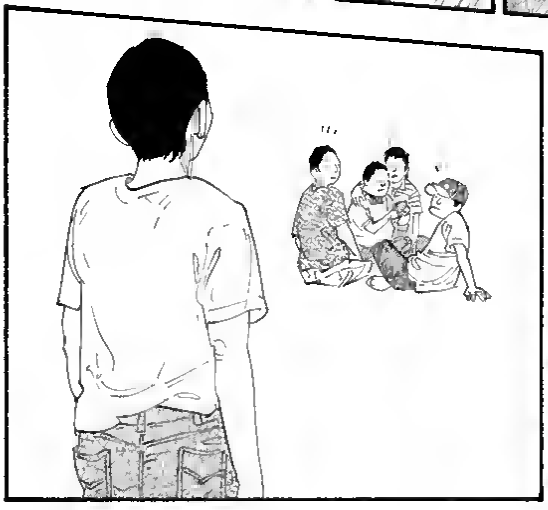
1648

HE HASN'T BEEN BACK SINCE THEN...
I HEARD "ADIOS."
I THINK THAT MEANS GOODBYE.


UGO...
WHAT WAS HE ALWAYS TRYING TO SAY...
TO ME...?

MAYBE IT WENT LIKE THIS—
Tomo.
You probably think those kids aren't letting you be their friend, huh?
THOSE THREE ARE ALWAYS PLAYING TOGETHER.
I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT OUT.
WHAT DID HE MEAN?
Do you really think those three kids are friends?
But... hold on a second.
.....





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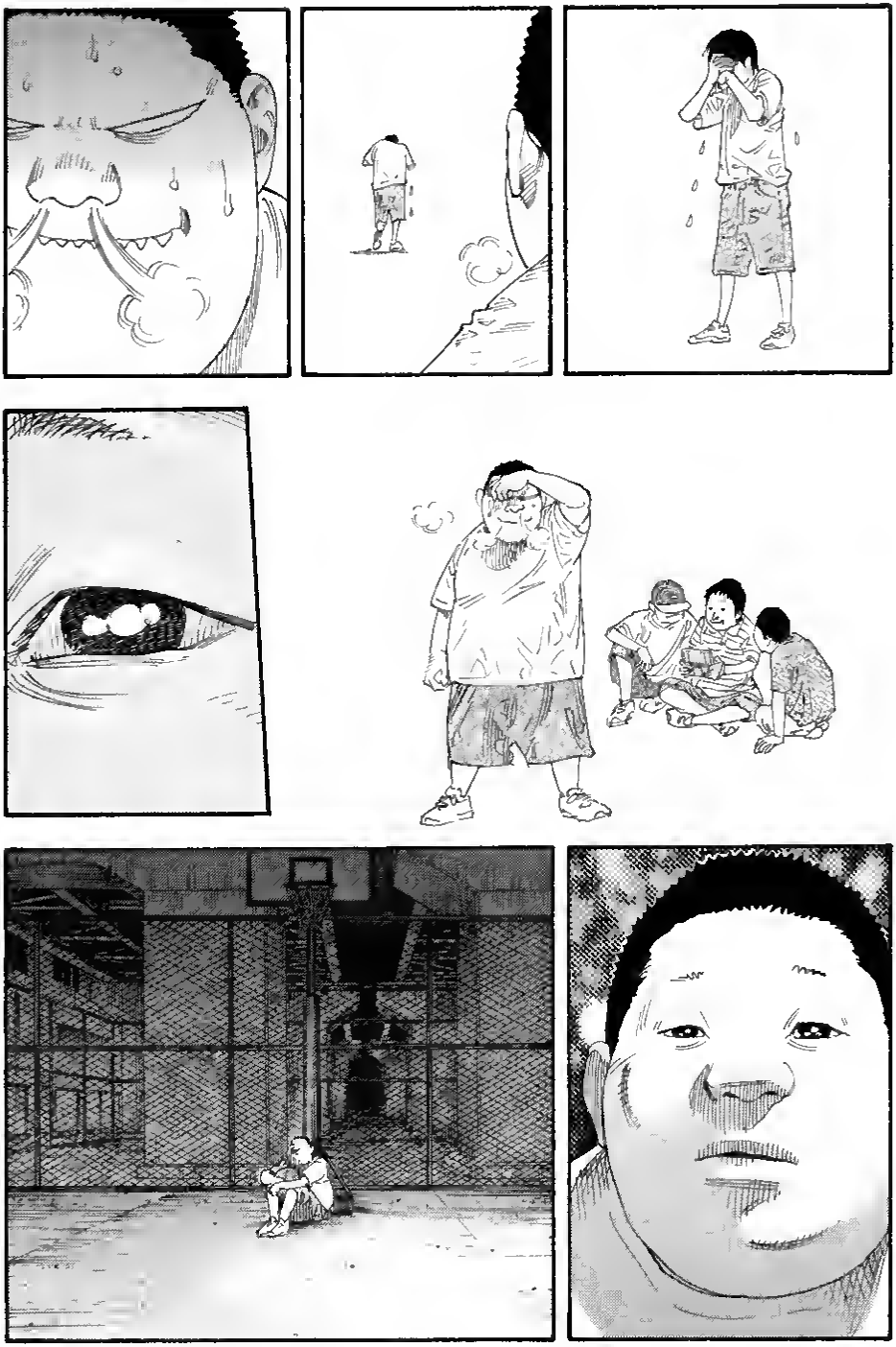
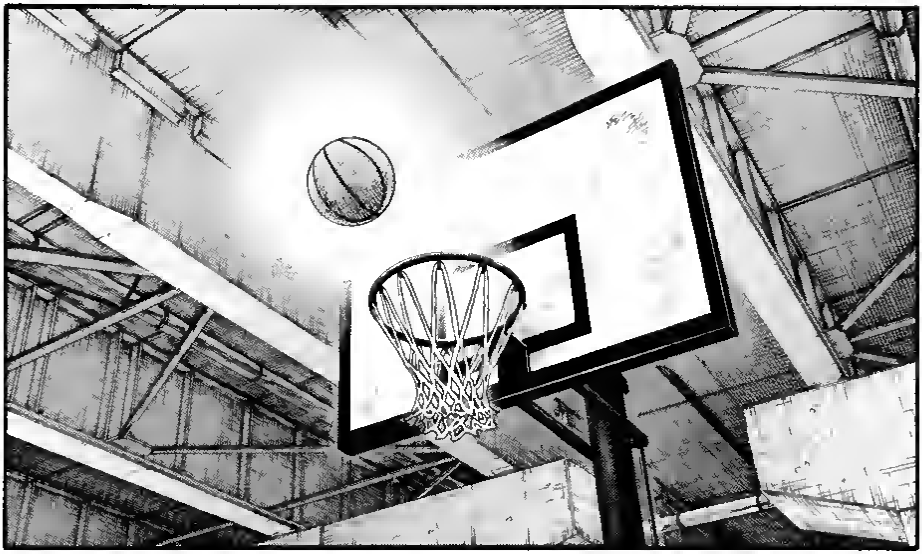


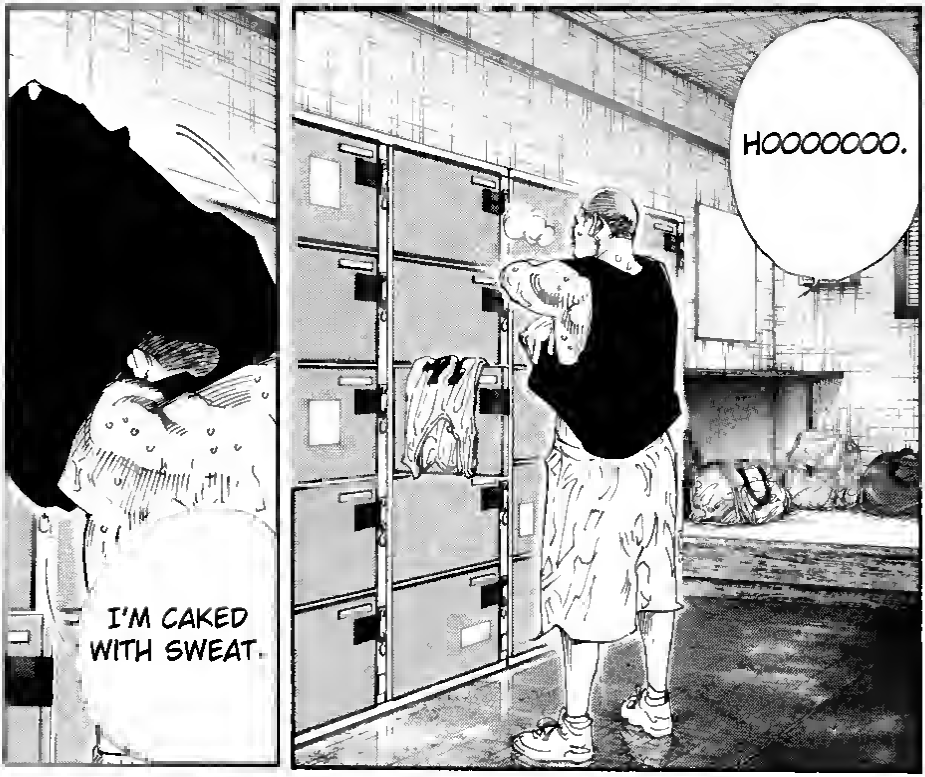
UGO...

HEY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE NEW GAME THAT JUST CAME OUT?
I'M NOT ALLOWED TO PLAY GAMES AT HOME, THOUGH...
HEY, FATTY!! GET OVER HERE.
GET OVER HERE.

NO THANKS.
COME ON, SHOW US YOUR POCKETS!
WE'LL LET YOU PLAY WITH US.
HUH...!?
NO THANKS!
C'MON, WE'LL BE FRIENDS!
JUST COME OVER HERE!
NO THANKS.
HAH
HAH
HAH

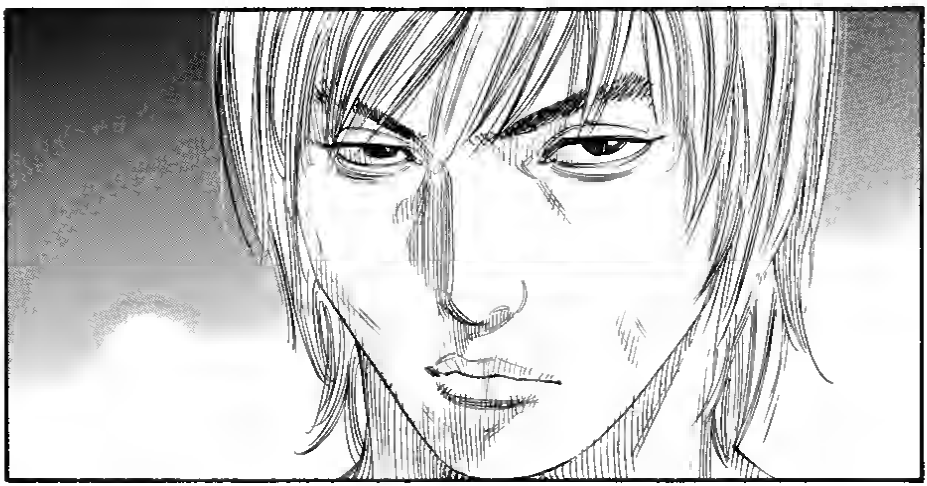
CAN I PLAY WITH YOU?
TOMO.
I'M TOMO.




I'M CAKED WITH SWEAT.
HOOOOOOO.

IT'S ON...!!
WEST
8
14

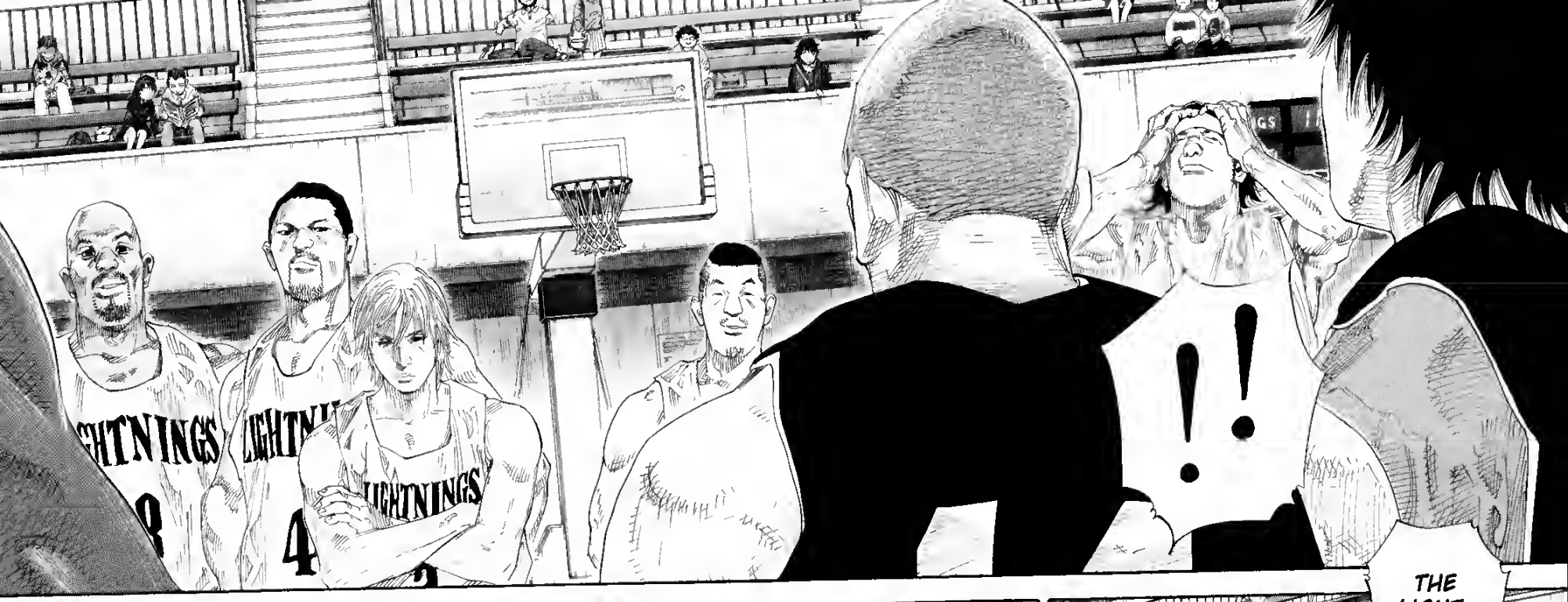
LIGHTNINGS
4
3
LIGHTNINGS
12



# 66th.

WHAT IS "DESPAIR"?
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH

HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
3
8


!!

.....
LIGHTNINGS

Ohhh..
It's Anzai Hoshiki..!!

!?

ALRIGHT, LET'S BEGIN.
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU.

14

14
Looks like he has no intention of acknowledging me...

.....
!!

THE LIGHTNINGS REGULARS...
VS

WHAT'S GOING ON!?
THE LIGHTNINGS...!!

!

WHAT A JOKE.

THE TEN REMAINING TRY-OUT PLAYERS!
THIS IS THE FINAL TEST!!
LIGHTNINGS
3

!!
THANK YOU.
LISTEN UP, GUYS. THEY'RE THE LIGHTNINGS REGULARS,
BUT WE CAN STILL TAKE THEM.
THEIR CENTER, BROOKS, HAS THE HIGHEST REBOUND COUNT IN THE ENTIRE LEAGUE.
HIDESHI, THEIR #2, JOU, IS MORE OF A SLASHER THAN A SHOOTER.
HE'S A GOOD DEFENDER, BUT HE'S GOT NO OUTSIDE GAME.
WHERE'S YOUR PROOF?

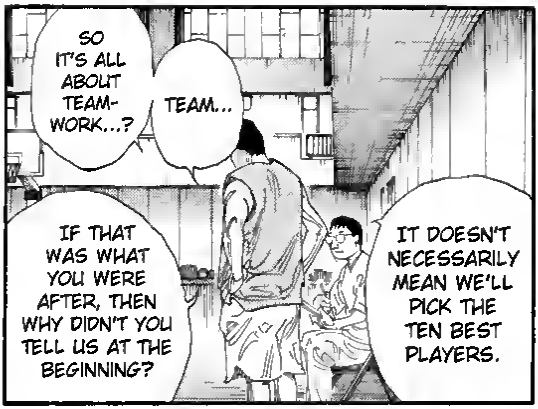
SO PUSHING STRONG WITH A CENTER FORMATION COULD BE A GOOD STRATEGY.
THEIR #3 IS BAD AT BLOCKING IN THE PAINT.
THEY'VE GOT SOME WEAK POINTS TOO.
WE HAVE TO ALL BLOCK HIM AS IF OUR LIVES DEPENDED ON IT.
……
……
……!!

RIGHT INSIDE HERE.
I GOT ALL THE TOKYO LIGHTNINGS DATA

NOW, LET'S GO OWN
THE REGULARS.

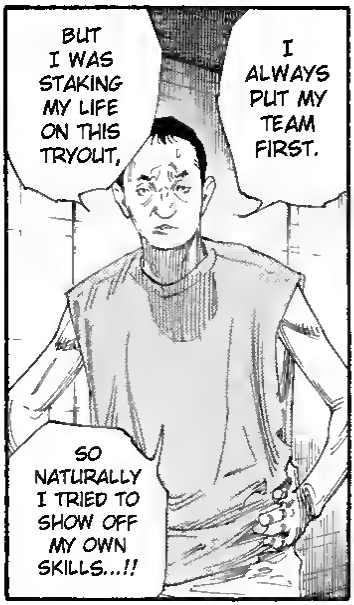
GOHH!
!!
BLEGH!
DE-
FENSE!
!!

WHY WAS NOMIYA PICKED...?
THIS IS FUCKED UP...
.....
HAH
DAMMIT!
I'M GOOD AT GETTING CHARGED...
HAH
BUT IT'S TOO EARLY FOR THAT...
HE'S JUST A RUN-OF-THE-MILL POINT GUARD...!!
SO HELP ME OUT.
14
EVEN IF IT ENDS UP IN A MISMATCH ON SOMEONE LIKE ME.
AND HE NEVER PASSES!!
OH YEAH, I FORGOT.
ANZAI YOSHIKI'S OFFENSE IS PRETTY MUCH ALWAYS ONE ON ONE...
9
11

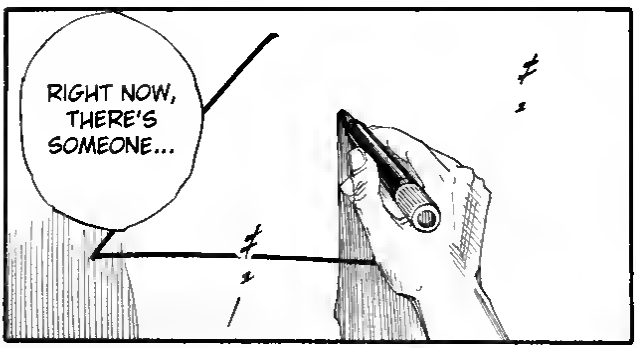

SO IT'S ALL ABOUT TEAM-WORK...?
TEAM...
IF THAT WAS WHAT YOU WERE AFTER, THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US AT THE BEGINNING?
IT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN WE'LL PICK THE TEN BEST PLAYERS.

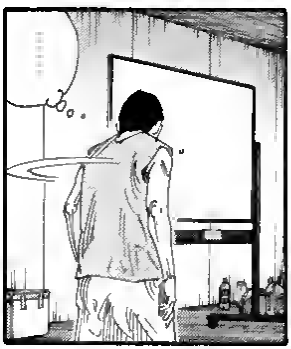
.....
THE GOAL OF THIS TRYOUT IS TO FIND THE KIND OF PLAYERS WE'RE CURRENTLY IN NEED OF ON THE TEAM.

SO ARE YOU SAYING THAT WHAT YOU SHOWED ME TODAY WASN'T THE REAL YOU?


I ALWAYS PUT MY TEAM FIRST.
BUT I WAS STAKING MY LIFE ON THIS TRYOUT,
SO NATURALLY I TRIED TO SHOW OFF MY OWN SKILLS...!!

WHEN DOES THE REAL YOU COME OUT, THEN?


RIGHT NOW, THERE'S SOMEONE...



14
HE DOESN'T BELONG HERE...!!
ON THE BOTTOM OF THE BASKETBALL PYRAMID—
WHO'S VYING FOR THE TOP.
NICE ONE!
RE-BOUND!!
WHOAAA!

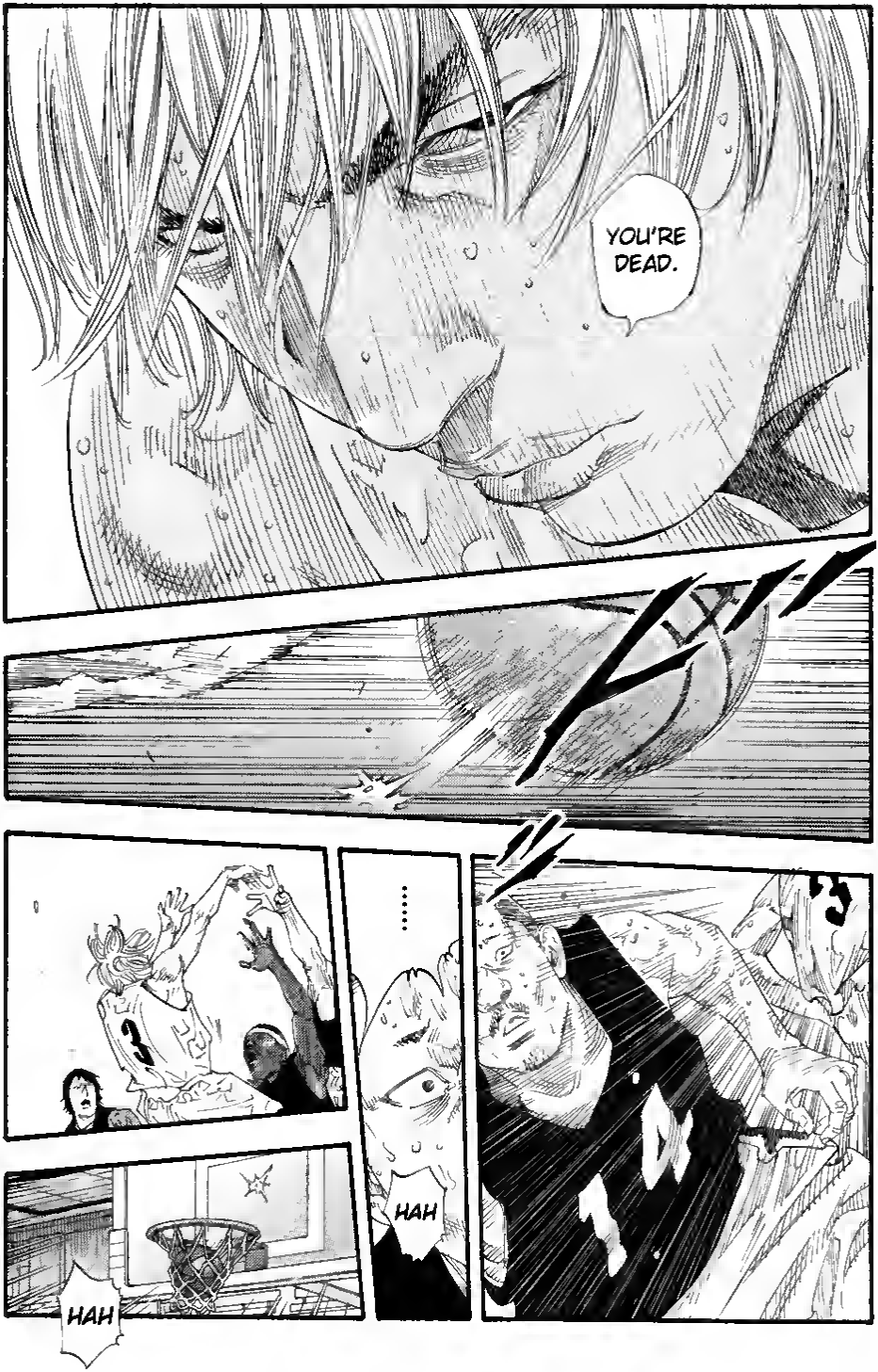
WHAT'S HIS FORTE?
TO BE HONEST, TANAKA-SAN,
14
I DON'T GET WHAT YOU SEE IN THAT POINT GUARD.
*5'8"
HE'S 174 CM*.
SMALL, AND NOT ESPECIALLY FAST.
HE HANDLES THE BALL... OKAY, I GUESS.
WELL, LET ME ASK YOU, THEN, HOW DOES HE LOOK TO YOU?
WHAT'S YOUR GENERAL IDEA OF HIM?
HE SUCKS AT SHOOTING,
HAS LITTLE EXPERIENCE.
...OVERALL, HE JUST SEEMS UNFIT TO PLAY AT THE PRO LEVEL.
MMM...
OKAY.

SO YOU DON'T SEE ANY POTENTIAL IN HIM...

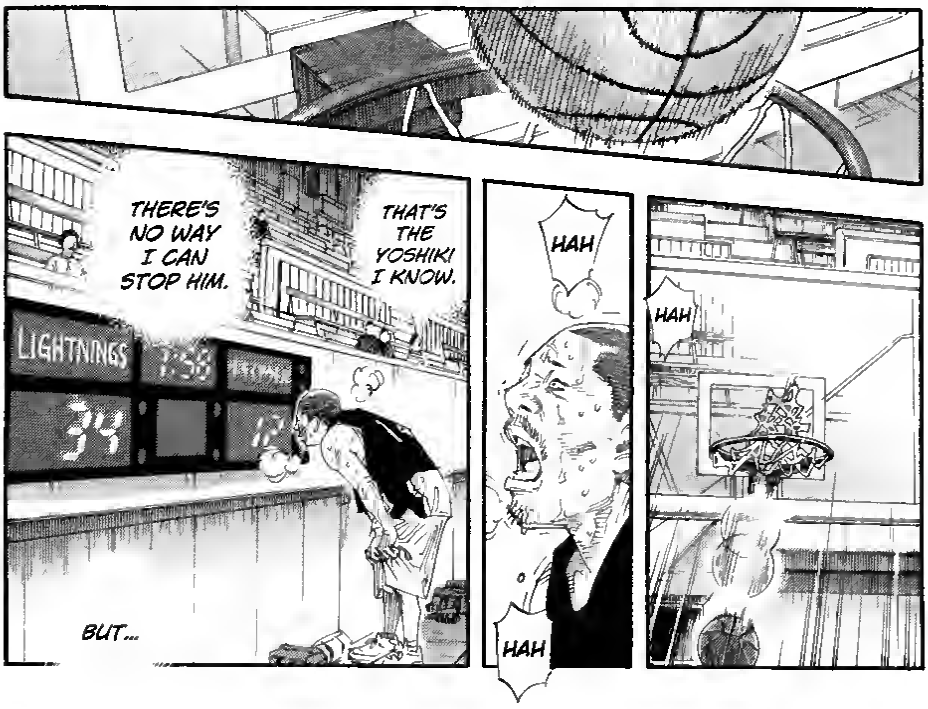
...!!
NNINGS
20
3:14
トライアウトA
4
JEWELS...
AND STONES—
BUT SOMETIMES, THAT CAN MAKE YOU BLIND TO THE NATURAL GIFTS...
OF YOUNG PLAYERS.
POTENTIAL CAN BE SPOTTED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

HAH
HAH
HAH
THE NATURAL GIFTS THAT COME FROM HERE.
14
3
…!!
…?
IT'S REALLY PATHETIC.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, YOSHIKI?
WE AREN'T DONE YET.
YOU WERE ONLY PICKED TO FILL AN EMPTY SPOT.
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE PLAYING ON THE SAME COURT AS ME.

I DON'T WANT TO RISK GETTING INJURED.
COME BACK.
WHY AM I HERE?
COME BACK.
AND TOWARD THE GAME.
TOWARDS YOUR TEAMMATES,
YOU LACK RESPECT.
HE'S GONNA COME FOR ME.
HAH
HAH
HAH
I KNOW IT.

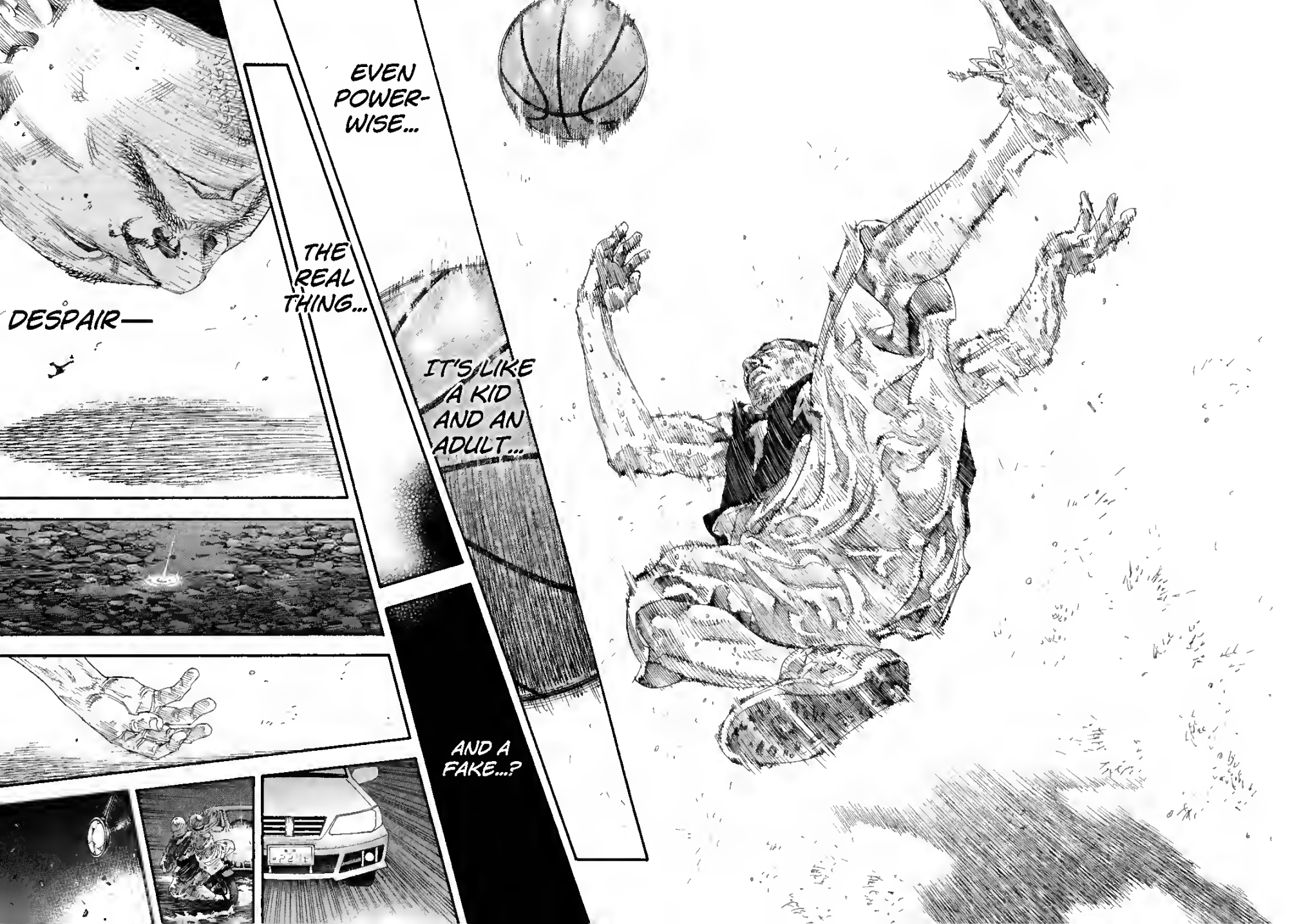

YOU'RE DEAD.
KI
.....
HAH
HAH

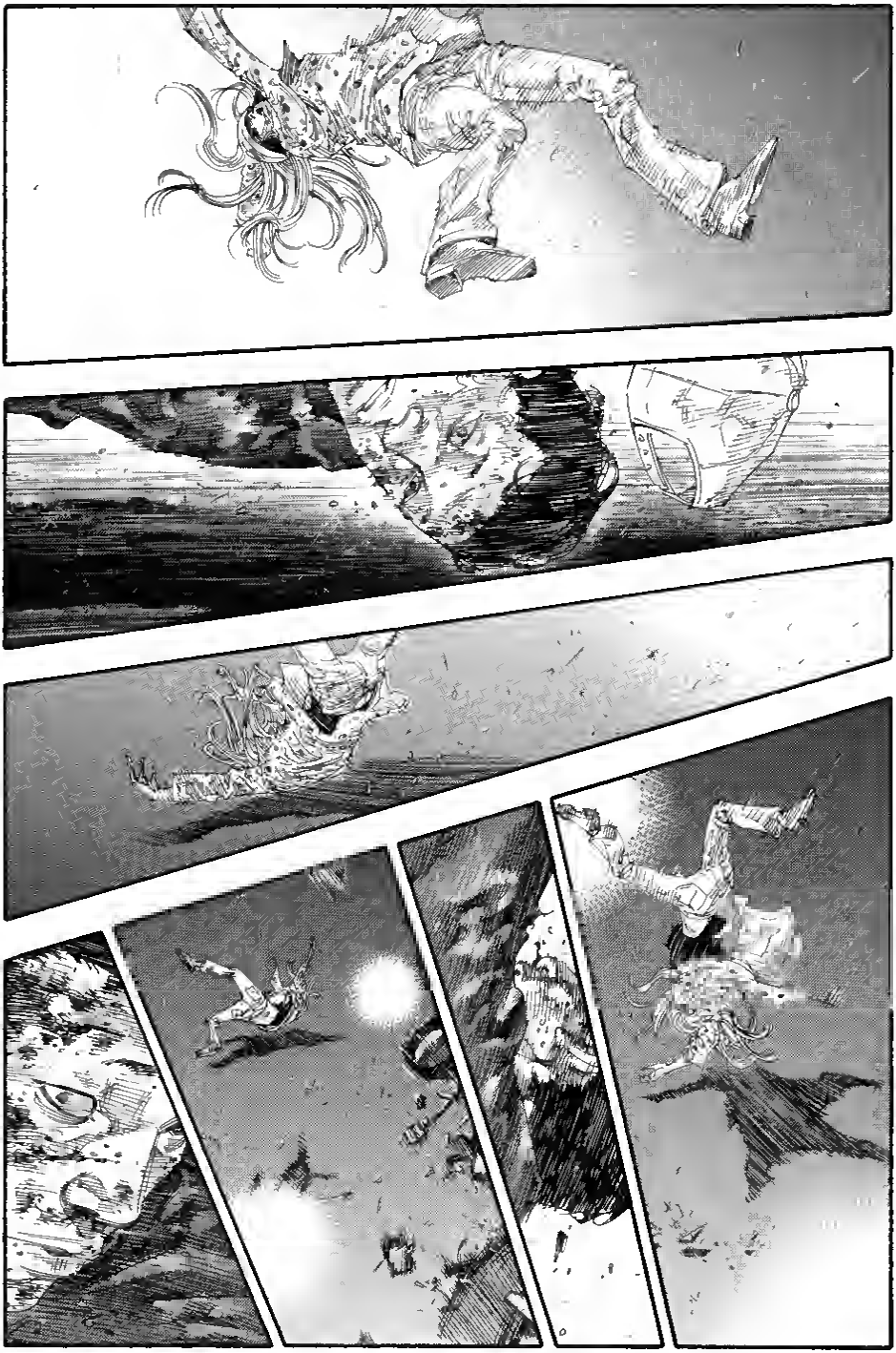
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH


THERE'S NO WAY I CAN STOP HIM.
THAT'S THE YOSHIKI I KNOW.
LIGHTNINGS
34
BUT...
HAH
HAH
HAH

AND I FOUND HIS WEAK POINT!!
I STUDIED HIM—
HE SUCKS AT DEFENSE—
I CAN GET PAST HIM!!

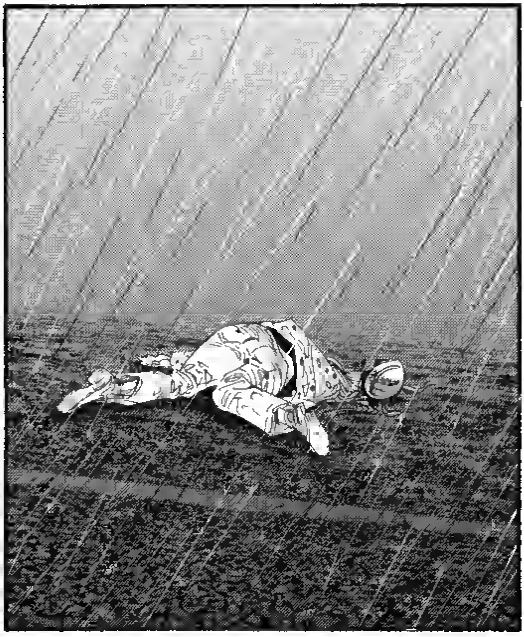
I CAN'T GET THROUGH HIM.
I'LL HAVE TO PUSH THROUGH WITH PURE POWER!
!?
NUOHHH!
POWER...


EVEN POWER-WISE...
THE REAL THING...
DESPAIR—
IT'S LIKE A KID AND AN ADULT...
AND A FAKE...?



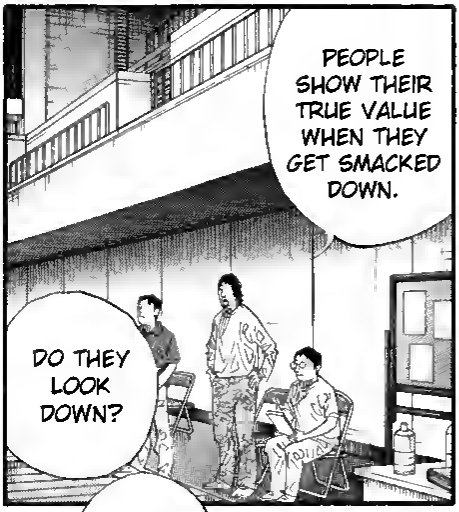
14
WHAT IS
"DESPAIR"?

THAT'S WHAT DESPAIR IS.



NOT THIS.
HAH
HAH
HAH

IS JOY.
THIS
7
14
9

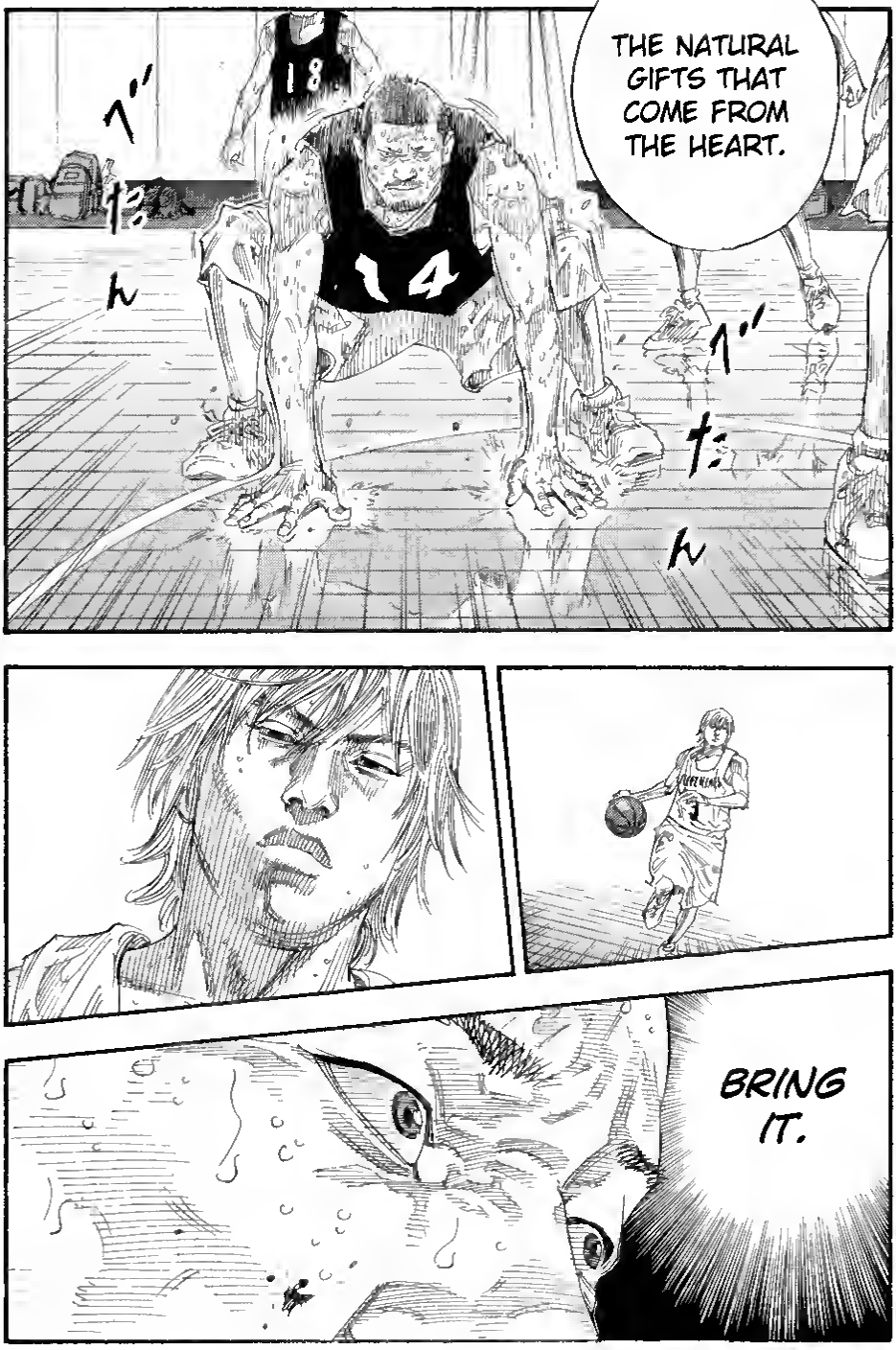

PEOPLE SHOW THEIR TRUE VALUE WHEN THEY GET SMACKED DOWN.
DO THEY LOOK DOWN?

DO THEY LOOK FORWARD?
DO THEY CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE THEMSELVES WITHOUT GIVING UP?

THAT'S—

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING, SOMETHING THAT'S OFTEN HIDDEN BY TALENT AND EXPERIENCE.

HHHHOOOOOH!


THE NATURAL GIFTS THAT COME FROM THE HEART.
BRING IT.

HE'S FASTER...!!

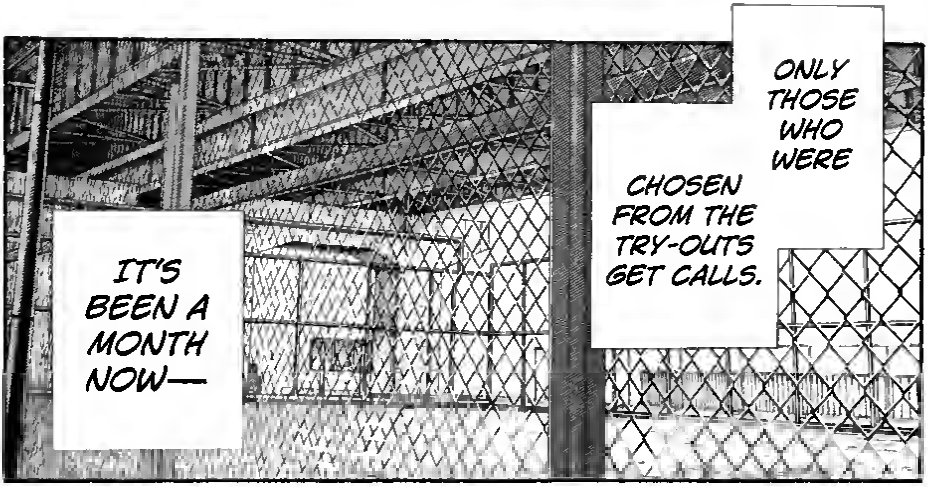
He never passes—

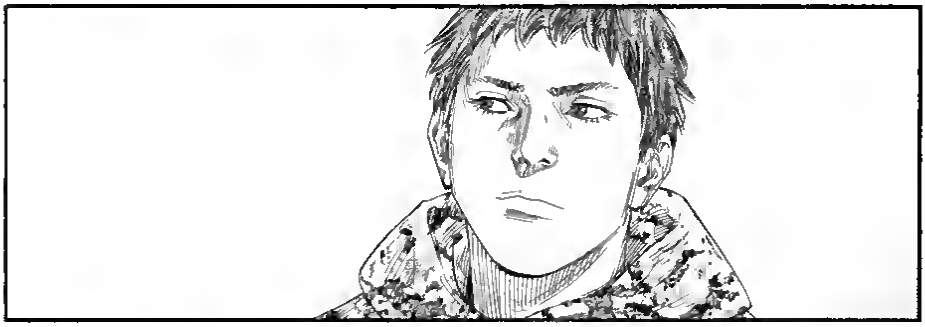
7
3
9
8

!
YES, GO!!
A STEAL!!

f''
f''
f''
YEAAAAHHH!

DID YOU
HEAR ANYTHING TODAY?
NOTHING.


IT'S BEEN A MONTH NOW—
ONLY THOSE WHO WERE CHOSEN FROM THE TRY-OUTS GET CALLS.



WANNA GO GET SOME OKONOMIYAKI?
.....

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